

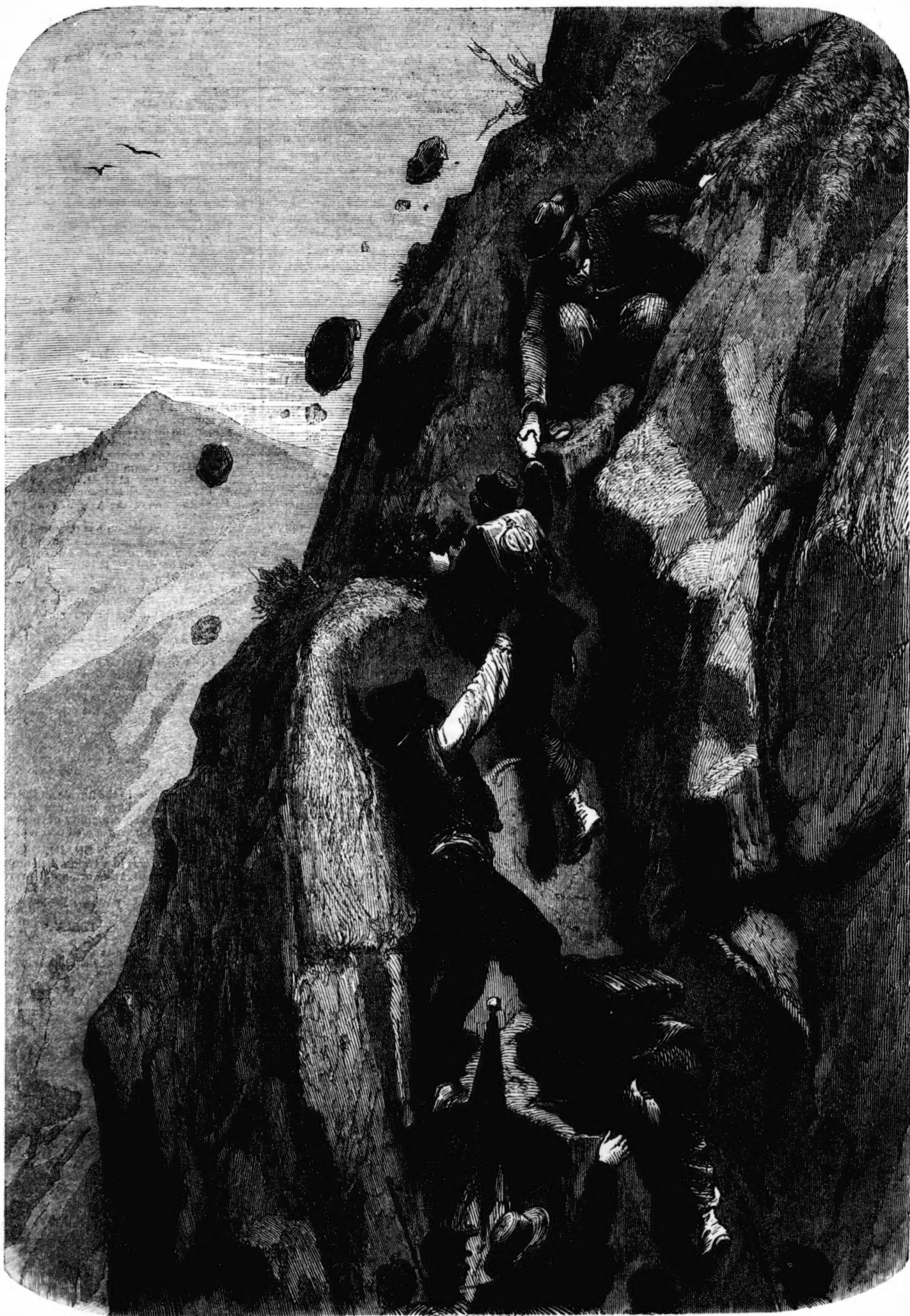
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NEUENBERG STUDENTS ON A HOLIDAY: CLIMBING "THE DIABLERETS."

NOBLE SLUGGARDS.

LEGISLATING in the Dog Days is certainly far from pleasant; and lawmakers, like other people, merit a holiday—provided they have earned it by previous diligence and hard work. But he would be a bold man who should assert that the House of Lords has this Session done any hard work, or, indeed, any work at all. Their Lordships have passed the Universities Tests Bill; but that involved no very laborious effort, seeing that the measure had been debated last year, and only required a formal vote to ratify what had previously been done. They have shelved the Ballot Bill, and tried to shelve the Army Bill. That is about the sum of their performances since February last, unless we are to reckon the passing of a vote of censure upon Government, to which neither Government nor anybody else pays the slightest heed, as a great effort. And yet on the strength of this very meagre tale of bricks, for fabricating which ample straw was provided for them, our noble Legislators plead fatigue, claim their annual holiday, and decline to undertake any further work for the present. It is well for them that Mr. Lowe's rule of "payment by results" does not apply to their case, for, measured by their performances, meagre indeed is the guerdon of thanks the nation owes them. The House of Lords has not sat after eight o'clock on a dozen nights during the whole Session; not above half a dozen evenings have been occupied with anything meriting the name of debates; and yet, on the grounds that the month of August has arrived, and that, we suppose, they are weary, their Lordships have declined even to consider a measure that has cost the People's Chamber two months of hard and incessant toil! An eloquent commentary this on the worth of hereditary legislators and on the valuable services such legislators can—or will—render to the country! "The labourer is worthy of his hire;" but noble Lords should be content to earn, ere they claim it, the meed of power, prestige, privilege, and rank so liberally accorded to them. Taking all the circumstances into account, it is not uncharitable to infer that it was the nature of the job, rather than inability to perform it, that dictated the Lords' decision on the Ballot Bill—that dislike of the measure, and not lack of energy or time to consider it, prompted the adoption of Lord Shaftesbury's motion. Well, it fortunately happens that the result is not of vital importance. There is not likely to be an election before next year; and then their Lordships will have to pass a more complete measure, and one which, perhaps, they will like still less.

In the meanwhile, there are certain duties incumbent on the country and the Government: on the country, to give forth during the vacation such a very decided sound on this question of the ballot that obstructives in neither House of Parliament will be able again to put forward the plea of "public indifference" advanced by Lord Salisbury in the Lords and by Mr. Disraeli in the Commons; and on the Government, to take care that their new Ballot Bill shall next Session be submitted so early and be so well matured that no justification for further delay will be possible. There are signs that the country will do its part, and that a good rousing ballot agitation is about to be inaugurated; and we think Mr. Forster may be trusted for making sure that the noble sluggards will not again have the same excuse for shirking their work as they adduced this year.

GOVERNMENT AND THE SESSION.

THE work of the Parliamentary Session of 1871 is practically over; and, so far as the Lower House is concerned, a most laborious, if not very productive, Session it has been. The Commons have worked hard, if not always wisely; and to them, at least, the name of sluggards cannot justly be applied. If good intentions and honest efforts, persistently made, merit thanks, Ministers and their supporters ought not to go without reward. Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues have succeeded in accomplishing but a small part of what they attempted; perhaps they tried to do too much; and they have committed some mistakes, the most notable being Mr. Lowe's unlucky Budget. But these mistakes, though grave, were not fatal, either to the interests of the country or to the reputation of the Government; and we cannot help thinking that an attempt is being made to visit them a little too severely. It is greatly to be regretted that sanitary and legal improvements, for instance, have received so little attention; but it is not quite fair, as some parties are trying to do, to lay the whole blame of this neglect at the door of Ministers.

It is not surprising that party hacks, in and out of Parliament, should raise an outcry about the non-accomplishment of reforms which they have themselves done most to hinder, "for 'tis their nature to;" but it is a little mean for professedly Liberal newspapers—like the *Times*, for example—to turn round upon Mr. Gladstone because he has been rather unlucky this year; on that account to ignore the important work he has accomplished in the past; and, in the expectation that his ill-luck is not yet exhausted, endeavour to accelerate what is supposed to be a downward career. The wish may be father to the thought; but both wish and thought are none the less foolish, and, we believe, futile. One swallow does not make a summer, and one year's achievements, or want of achievement, do not settle a Minister's claim to statesmanship. Applying the law of averages, and taking into account what Mr. Gladstone has accomplished during his three years' Premiership, we will be bold to say that a more successful statesman has not swayed the destinies of Great Britain in the memory of living man. Signal successes, however, have not attended Mr. Gladstone this year, and so a dead set is being

made against him. He is charged with caring more for his own reputation than for the public weal; with labouring to pull down rather than striving to build up; with being rash, obstinate, headstrong; with giving more heed to theories than to matters of practical importance; and with sacrificing good administration to doubtful legislative projects. In short, the usual pleas are being advanced for playing the part of political rats, and deserting what is supposed to be a sinking ship.

This policy, however, is a little premature, and we suspect has not been well considered by those who follow it. In the first place, is it quite certain that Mr. Gladstone's popularity is really on the wane? We believe it is not, substantially, though a little discontent has been engendered here and there; and we are sure that, despite mistakes, he is still the most popular man in the country. Furthermore, it is certain that, were it possible to drive Mr. Gladstone from power, there is nobody to take his place; so that those who talk of pulling down rather than building up are guilty of the very fault they condemn. No Liberal Ministry would take office without the present Premier; and as for Mr. Disraeli and the Conservatives, they could not govern the country for a month—except, indeed, during the Parliamentary vacation, and for that chance they will have to wait till the autumn of 1872, at the earliest. It is, therefore, decidedly premature for anyone to build hopes on the possible fall of the Gladstone Administration; and even to discuss such an unlikely eventuality calls far more for apology than do the failures of Ministers this Session, important as those failures may be.

BATHING-PLACES IN THE PUBLIC PARKS.

A GREAT deal of solemn nonsense has been written and spoken of late about the uses to which the public parks of the metropolis ought to be put. Some people insist that these parks are designed entirely for purposes of recreation, and therefore ought not to be used for political gatherings; forgetting that tastes may differ as to what constitutes recreation, and that to some men making and listening to speeches at the Reformers' Tree may be as truly recreation as riding in the Row, sauntering among the flower-plots, or bathing in the Serpentine, may be to others. We are not going to discuss the general question now; but we have a suggestion to make touching bathing, which is prompted by this intensely hot weather. "A dip in the briny" is, of course, preferable to a plunge in the Serpentine or any other of the artificial waters in the parks; but to get to the seaside involves an expenditure of time and money beyond the means of the vast majority of Londoners, whereas the ponds in the parks are within the reach of all. Now, what we wish to propose is this—that certain portions of those ponds should be appropriated, at certain hours in the morning and evening, where persons may bathe in comfort and in decent company. At present only "roughs" and dirty boys can avail themselves of the artificial waters in the several parks for bathing purposes; and, though said roughs and dirty boys stand much in need of ablution, there is no reason why they should enjoy a monopoly of the facilities the artificial waters afford. Portions of these waters in each of the several parks might be appropriated for bathing, at, say, before nine o'clock in the morning and after six or seven in the evening, where respectable persons might go to cool and clean themselves. To ensure decency and comfort, the bathing-places might be screened from view, and the use of bathing-dresses be made imperative; while to cover costs, and provide towels, &c., a small charge—say twopence or threepence per head—might be imposed, and we are sure would be gladly paid by thousands. We commend this idea to Mr. Ayrton, who—as a practical man, and not a mere art-dilettante—will be able to appreciate the importance of such a provision to the comfort, cleanliness, and health of the lieges.

NEUBERG STUDENTS ON THEIR HOLIDAY.

WE last year published some account of the summer excursions made by the students of the Swiss and German schools, and we this week publish an illustration from a sketch of a stiff piece of rock-climbing by the Neuenberg scholars. The town itself may well be regarded as the headquarters of mountaineering practice. It is situated in the upper valley of the Mürz, and is the residence of the director of the Government ironworks. From the door of the fine old church, once belonging to a Cistercian monastery, begins the ascent of the Schneebühl, the mountain on the Styrian side of the boundary, beyond which is the Schneebühl, altogether in Austrian territory. The Schneebühl is a kind of high plateau rising into numerous eminences, the highest point being called the Windberg, 6213 ft. high. From Neuenberg the road ascends gently for six miles between the steep limestone rocks that inclose the valley on each side, to Mürzsteg, a charming place, at the point where the main stream of the Mürz is formed by two mountain torrents, the largest of which descends through a remarkable gorge. Pedestrians may choose between three passes leading to Mariazell; but the carriage road ascends through the Dobreinthal, which is most conveniently ascended from Mürzsteg. The scenery is very beautiful, and offers a variety of interesting points of view. The carriage mounts slowly, passing the hamlets of Dobrein and Neideralp. The latter, at which there are large smelting-works, gives its name to the pass which here divides the basin of the Salza from that of the Mürz. The view of the crags of the Hochschwab, the highest and boldest summit of this district, is unexpectedly fine. A rapid descent on the west side leads down to Wegscheid, so called from the junction of this road with the post road from Bruck to Mariazell.

Mariazell is still a renowned sanctuary visited by numerous pilgrims, sometimes, on the occasion of the annual fair, amounting to nearly 100,000. From Mariazell the traveller should go to Weichselboden, about eighteen miles distant, and the centre of a community whose houses are scattered among the adjoining glens. There is a rough little mountain inn there, supplying a few clean beds and tolerable food at prices that would be thought exorbitant in the Tyrol. The ruggedness of the surrounding mountains and the savage and inhospitable aspect of the sombre defile that gives access to this inclosed basin confer a wild and almost dreary aspect on the place that recalls spots higher by 3000 ft. or 4000 ft., lying in the interior recesses of the great chain of the Alps. To the north-east is the impassable

defile of the Salza, and in the opposite direction the river descends to the Enns through a gorge of not much less menacing aspect. South-east is the opening of the savage glen of the Hölle. The road from Weichselboden to Wildalpen is safe and pleasant. In the gorge, where the rocks close on each side of the stream, a massive dam has been constructed to assist in floating timber down the stream, and a short tunnel permits the passage of the road. Amid fine and varied scenery the traveller advances through a long defile, overlooked on the south side by crags that belong to the Hochschwab, to Gschöder, at the opening of the Anten Graben, a short glen or hollow running into the Hochschwab range. The valley, or rather defile, leads thence to Wildalpen. Although the surrounding mountains do not afford scope for arduous excursions, they are steep enough to allow of pleasant and even difficult climbing, while the scenery is everywhere agreeable and often extremely picturesque; so that we would recommend our readers who wish to perform ordinary feats, and have no desire to risk their necks, to follow the route to this picturesque locality, and avoid such bits as that represented in our Engraving.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

In the Assembly, last Saturday, a motion was brought forward that M. Thiers should be named President of the Republic and hold office for three years, unless the Assembly should be dissolved before that time, in which case it would be at the option of the new Assembly to make another arrangement. This was met by a counter-proposition brought forward by a member of the Extreme Right, to the effect that M. Thiers should continue to hold office on the same terms as at present—viz., in virtue of the powers conferred on him at Bordeaux. M. Thiers then rose and expressed his thanks for the confidence placed in him, and begged the Assembly to examine and decide upon both motions without delay. He should consider that their confidence in him had diminished if they did not do so. There was great excitement at this, and the sitting was suspended for twenty minutes. "Urgency" was ultimately voted for both propositions. A Legitimist then proposed that the Assembly should not dissolve before making a definitive Constitution. After a good deal of uproar the House refused to regard the motion as urgent. The Extreme Left, after having provoked and approved the proposition for the prolongation of M. Thiers's powers, are now suspected of an intention to thwart the measure. In consequence of this attitude, it is believed that the Right will support the proposition, slightly modified. The debate is expected to commence to-day (Saturday), and the relative strength of parties is thus estimated:—First, 120 members of the Left Centre consisting of the Reunions Ferry and Rampon; secondly, 110 members of the Left; thirdly, from 70 to 75 members who have recently coalesced under the leadership of M. Quinet; in all, about 300, who will vote for the prolongation of power. To these must be added a certain number of the Right who lean towards the Left Centre. On the other hand, the 230 members of the Right and Extreme Right will vote against the proposal. About 130 votes will not be recorded, on account of vacancies, leave of absence, and absence.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Assembly the quarterly election of the Bureaux was proceeded with. M. Grévy was re-elected President of the Assembly by 461 votes, 468 members voting. The following were elected Vice-Presidents:—MM. Vitet, Martel, Benoit d'Azy, and St. Marc Girardin. The Assembly then discussed M. Dahirel's motion demanding the drawing up of a Constitution. The Initiative Committee recommended the rejection of the motion. M. Dahirel opposed the Committee's view. In his speech he openly expressed Monarchical views, thereby creating great excitement in the Chamber. The Assembly ultimately declared in favour of rejecting the motion, and adopted the views of the Committee. The Assembly refused to take into consideration a proposal of M. Baze, providing that the Assembly should not dissolve itself before having voted organic laws, and fixing the duration of the Assembly at two years under any circumstances.

The Budget Commission has proposed to substitute for the duty of 20 per cent on raw material a tax of 3 per cent on all bonded goods, except corn, coal, and all articles on which taxes have recently been imposed. It is calculated that this new tax will yield 75,000,000fr.

The *Presse* asserts that a member of the Right Centre has sounded the Duc d'Aumale with the view of ascertaining whether he would accept the Presidency of the Executive Power. The Duke refused to entertain the proposal, on the ground of its being impolitic and likely to lead to further divisions in the Conservative party.

The Paris *Siccle* draws attention to the condition of certain Italian volunteers of the Army of the Vosges who were taken prisoners by the Germans during the late war. These men, it says, are still kept in confinement. The Prussian Government does not look upon them in the same light as the Frenchmen who fell into its hands—that is, as regular prisoners of war—and the Italian Government does not take any steps to obtain their release. Under these circumstances, the *Siccle* suggests that the French Government should exert itself on their behalf, as it ought not to forget that they have suffered, and indeed are still suffering, for the cause of France.

The incendiary fires in the forests on the eastern coast of Algeria continue; 5000 men have been sent from Algiers to Bona to chastise the tribes who are guilty of these acts. In the province of Algiers quiet has been restored and taxes are being collected.

SPAIN.

Marshal Serrano was in a train which was run into near Madrid, on Sunday, and was slightly hurt, not, however, by the concussion, but by a stone which struck him on the foot after he had left his carriage. It is stated that many people have been injured by the collision, but none killed.

ITALY.

It is pointed out by the Italian journals that the great tunnel under Mont Cenis, which is to be opened on the 15th of next month, will then have been completed three months before the time stipulated in the contract—viz., December, 1871. The works were commenced in 1837, and have thus been fourteen years in hand. The rate of progress has been about three yards per day. On the French side there is still part of the connecting line—about six miles in length—incomplete. This will not be ready until a month after the opening of the tunnel.

A great number of houses in Rome were illuminated on Tuesday evening, to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. This religious demonstration did not give rise to any disturbances.

The Pope has published an encyclical letter thanking his followers for the manner in which they celebrated his jubilee. His Holiness has refused the offer of the golden throne which some of his more ardent admirers proposed to purchase for him by a subscription from the Catholics throughout the world. He suggests that the sums subscribed should be employed in paying the exemption money of clerical students drawn for military service. The Pope also refuses the title of Great.

The *Avenir de Sardaigne* says that advices from Caprera announce that Garibaldi's health has become worse, and that Ricciotti has been summoned to Caprera by telegraph.

GERMANY.

The Emperors of Germany and Austria have met at Gastein, Count Beust and Prince Bismarck being also of the party; and much speculation has arisen in consequence. The Berlin *Provincial Correspondence* perceives in this event a pledge for the continuance of good relations between the two neighbouring States, and says the expressions of friendship recently exchanged hereby receive solemn confirmation. The journal

adds: "A good understanding between Austria and Germany in no way implies any danger or threat to the other Powers. It is a fact that relationship of a personal character dominates over the political relations, and is at the same time a guarantee that the union of the two Governments will be a firm support to the peace of Europe."

A law has been promulgated, extending from Jan. 1, 1872, to Alsace and Lorraine the application of the thirty-third clause of the Imperial Constitution, which provides that the whole of Germany be held to form one single territory as concerns customs' duties and commercial regulations.

Active measures are being taken in Berlin against the approach of cholera. In Königsberg and other places fatal cases occur daily.

AUSTRIA.

An Imperial patent has been issued dissolving the Lower House of the Reichsrath and ordering fresh elections to be held. Another dissolves the Provincial Diets of Lower and Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Carinthia, Moravia, Silesia, and Tyrol. A third patent has been issued convoking for Sept. 14 the Diets of all the kingdoms and provinces represented in the Reichsrath.

It is stated that the recently-published programme of the Old Catholics of Austria has been well received throughout the empire. The Vienna Committee receives letters every day expressing sympathy with the movement, and many officials and artisans are taking part in it in order to oppose the new Papal doctrines.

THE UNITED STATES.

A fire-damp explosion occurred, on Monday morning, in the Eagle Colliery, Pittston, Pennsylvania. One man was killed. The rubbish falling down the shaft imprisoned sixteen others, who were all suffocated.

BRAZIL.

The bill for the emancipation of the slaves in Brazil was read the second time in the Chamber of Deputies on July 22, the Government having a majority of 25.

CUBA.

Advices from Cuba announce that the insurgents Quesada and Figueredo have been executed at Santiago.

JAMAICA.

Advices from Jamaica state that much excitement had been caused in Kingston by the report that the negroes in St. Thomas-in-the-East had risen in rebellion. A large body of constables were sent off to the spot, and an express was dispatched to the commander of the forces, then at Falmouth. A day or two afterwards it transpired that these measures had merely been taken by way of precaution, and had been decided upon some time before, in consequence of disturbances being apprehended in connection with some trespass cases that were being tried in the district court. Up to the departure of the English mail, however, on July 10, no disturbances of any kind whatever had occurred.

PRUSSIAN MANOEUVRES.

A PAPER by Lieutenant-Colonel Bray, 4th (King's Own) Regiment, on "The Prussian Mode of Conducting Large Manoeuvres," is about to be published at the Royal Artillery Institution for the information of the regiment; and as it is upon the reports of this officer, among others, that the contemplated peace campaign next month will be based, his experiences will, no doubt, be valuable and interesting. He says that he accompanied Major-General Sir Charles Staveley and three other officers to Berlin, in 1868, for the purpose of witnessing the field manoeuvres of the Prussian army, and that he was much impressed with the high training of the troops and the practical teaching afforded by the apparent reality of their sham battles. The troops marched out in war-service order, and without tents. Every officer, from General to Lieutenant, carried a map of the surrounding country, which he consulted at every halt, and everyone of them had a field-glass. A printed "general idea" of the day's work was also freely distributed. The opposing forces were placed miles apart and quite out of sight of each other. Fields under cultivation were marked by poles and bunches of straw, and were avoided if possible; but the troops passed where they pleased, and at the end of the day the damage done was assessed by a board of officers and civilians and paid by the Government. Early each morning cavalry outposts were spread out in front to feel for the enemy, and nothing could escape the eyes and ears of the army, the information being obtained, as in the field, at the risk of capture. There were also two or three dragons with every infantry picket, and altogether the manner in which the outpost duty was performed gave the English officers a new idea of the value of cavalry. Colonel Bray explains the system of umpires adopted by the Prussians in their mimic engagements, and gives a few simple rules by which they and the troops are guided. The umpires, distinguished by a white band, scatter themselves along the front between the contending armies, and decide when a position has been carried, whether a battery has been fairly captured, whether a cavalry charge has been effective, and so on, besides preventing, by their interposition, many of the absurdities which generally arise in sham fights for want of a controlling power. At the end of the day the beaten army had to march some miles further on to be ready for the next day's manoeuvres. He found that the Control Department did its work well, country carts being pressed into the transport service, as they would be in actual war. In fact, he says the Prussian army has only been carrying out in France what they had been practising for years past at home, and he attributes their late success to four principal causes—better organisation, perfect outpost duty, practice of great manoeuvres every year on an intelligent and scientific system, and superior application of artillery fire.

ST. CLEMENT DANES CHURCH.—Mr. Lowe proposes to pull down the Church of St. Clement Danes, in the Strand, in order to make a good approach to the new law courts. In case this be done the Government would build a new church close to the courts, and in a style of architecture in keeping with those buildings, together with a parsonage and schools. The parishioners held a meeting on Monday to consider the subject, but as Mr. Street, the architect, to whom the Chancellor of the Exchequer has made the proposition, is out of town, it was resolved not to take any step in the matter at present. The Rev. R. J. Simpson, the Rector, was in the chair, and several of the parishioners spoke in reference to the object of the meeting, the general tone of which does not seem to have been favourable to Mr. Lowe's proposition.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—At the half-yearly general meeting, held on Saturday at the Institution, the directors' report, which has already been noticed, was adopted, and the dividend of 4 per cent for the half year, or at the rate of 8 per cent per annum, was declared. The Rev. J. B. Owen, as chairman of the company, presided. A report of the position and progress of the Institution was read by Professor Pepper, who congratulated the shareholders on the continued success of the Polytechnic, notwithstanding the competition of the Crystal Palace, the new theatres, two-headed nightingales, glens and giantesses, and other novelties. 10,212 more people had paid for admission during the six months ending June 30 last than during the corresponding period of last year. The various entertainments which had been produced in the six months were then mentioned, and the improved arrangements for the comfort of visitors contemplated described. The Rev. C. Mackenzie read a report of the education department, which stated that the French and German evening classes had been a great success, and that in the Italian class there was considerable improvement. One of the students in book-keeping had obtained the first prize of 5 guineas, given by the Society of Arts. The science classes continued to teach chemistry, animal physiology, metallurgy, drawing, and mathematics, and the arithmetic, grammar, elocution, and writing classes were carried on as usual. The two best tests of the progress made—the money paid by the students for their own education, and the class lists after public examination—were satisfactory. In 1870-1 the students' fees amounted to £433, which is £20 more than in the previous year, and £130 more than in 1862-3. Besides the first prize alluded to, there were eighty-nine certificates—twenty-five firsts, thirty seconds, and thirty-four thirds; and this exceeds any number previously obtained, and is 10 per cent better than last year in quantity and quality. The several reports were adopted. The chairman, in moving that of the directors, stated that the increased dividend had arisen in a large degree from economical management. Thanks were voted to Professor Pepper, the honorary director of the Institution, to the officers generally, and to the chairman and directors.

FRIGHTFUL EXPLOSION OF GUN-COTTON.

A TERRIBLE catastrophe occurred at Stowmarket, on Friday, Aug. 11, in the shape of an explosion at Messrs. Prentice's gun-cotton manufactory. Nothing has transpired to throw any light upon the cause of the explosion. The Messrs. Prentice—or, rather, the limited liability company in whose behalf they manage the works—were executing a large order for Government, and had as much as fifteen tons of gun-cotton stored up. The number of persons employed at the works was about 130, and most of these were upon the premises when the explosion occurred. A dense column of smoke rose several hundred yards into the air, and spread out gradually into a fanlike shape; then there came a deafening roar, the explosion being felt in every corner of the town. The effects of the explosion upon the buildings of the town were very capricious, some being spared almost entirely, while others had their roofs slightly injured, and many sustained damage to their windows. At the Independent chapel, which is a comparatively new structure, the amount of glass broken was very large. The church suffered considerably, but not so seriously as the chapel. As for the works themselves, they are almost completely destroyed. None of the Messrs. Prentice were at the works at the time—the manager, Mr. Eustace Prentice, being on the Continent, while Mr. Manning Prentice is not in good health. Soon after the first explosion Mr. E. H. Prentice, one of the partners in some chemical works also conducted in the neighbourhood, and Mr. W. R. Prentice, second son of Mr. Manning Prentice, arrived, and, collecting as many other persons as possible, they set to work to save such of the remaining buildings as were still standing at the shattered works, but which had taken fire in consequence of the explosion. These buildings or sheds contained a number of boxes of cartridges; and, although some warning voices were raised, Mr. Edward Prentice, relying upon some experiments alleged to have been lately made by certain Government officials, replied that there was no danger, and continued to draw some of the boxes of cartridges towards him, while his nephew, Mr. W. R. Prentice, assisted in pushing them further from the flames. The result was that one of the boxes suddenly caught fire, and a second explosion of great violence followed, which blew the two Messrs. Prentice to atoms and completed the wreck of the premises. Mr. Edward Prentice's hat was afterwards found and identified, and some fragments which have been picked up are supposed to have been his remains; but nothing definite is known upon the subject. Mr. William R. Prentice's handkerchief was picked up, and one of his boots was found and identified by his groom, but nothing more has been seen of his remains. The telegraph wires on the adjacent line of railway were carried away, and even the permanent way of the railway itself was considered to be slightly injured. The explosion was heard at Diss, fifteen miles off. A Coroner's inquest was opened last Saturday, and is being continued this week.

Professor Abel, chemist to the War Department, has visited the scene of the explosion, and has made his official report. At a meeting held in the town, on Monday, it was resolved to make a general appeal for aid on behalf of the sufferers by this calamity. The number of killed and missing is now reported to be twenty-four, and of wounded seventy-two. Of the latter six or seven are not yet out of danger.

Mr. Saunders Trotman, the manager at the works, is of opinion that the building in which the second explosion—which proved fatal to the Messrs. Prentice—occurred had collapsed, but that its contents were comparatively safe at first. The fire which had resulted from the first explosion, however, Mr. Trotman thinks, set light to the building which the Messrs. Prentice had reached, the flames communicated with the cases of cartridges in it, and they became so heated that they exploded. The three magazines at the works did not communicate with each other, but there was a 9-in. wall between each. The magazines, taken as a whole, were inclosed and locked, and no one was allowed to have access to them except with the permission of Howe, the foreman, who unfortunately perished in the explosion. They were roofed with slate, lined with canvas, and papered for the sake of cleanliness. The Limited Liability Company which owned the works had a paid-up capital of £30,000, and the directors obtained an interest in the patents of Professor Abel, who is himself a shareholder in the company to a large extent. The contract which the company at the time of the explosion was executing for the Government was for about £50,000 worth of gun-cotton. The premises, now nearly entirely destroyed, were insured in the Imperial office about five weeks since. One of the wounded persons remained more than twenty-four hours among the debris before he was found and extricated.

HARVEST PROSPECTS.

THE variable climate of the British Isles renders the approach of harvest a subject of great interest; for, notwithstanding the vast improvements which have been achieved by agriculture in all its departments—but more especially in drainage both of surface and subsoil—the utmost effect has been to raise the temperature of the kingdom, according to Greenwich observations, 1 per cent. It is a fact, too well established to need any enforcement of illustration, that a high summer temperature, particularly in July and August, is necessary to bring about a good harvest. Such a cause, when aided by a genial season at the period of flowering, has for its well-assured effect an "over-average" crop; whereas a low summer temperature, even though it may not be more than two or three degrees under the mean temperature, is just as sure to produce a crop of less than average quantity. Now the past summer has been unusually cold and wet, with a temperature decidedly low; and consequently an unproductive wheat harvest may be anticipated. This is borne out by reports before us from all parts of the three kingdoms. A leading agricultural paper has taken especial pains to gather correct information, and has received trustworthy reports from nearly two hundred correspondents in England and Wales, thirty-five in Scotland, and eleven in Ireland. The result is thus tabulated:—For wheat, 43 per cent of the whole number report an average crop, 54 per cent under average, and 3 per cent over average. For barley, 50 per cent report an average crop, 35 per cent over average, and 5 per cent under average. For oats, 55 per cent give an average crop, 27 per cent under average, and 18 per cent over average. For beans, 59 per cent say an average crop, 34 per cent under average, and 7 per cent over average. For peas, 58 per cent report an average crop, 36 per cent under average, and 7 per cent over average.

These reports being obtained from all parts of the British Islands, the gross result shows an inferior crop of wheat, a full crop of barley, an average crop of oats, and an extraordinarily good crop of beans and peas. Nor does the summary lack confirmation from very many district statements that have come under our notice. The wet and stormy weather which prevailed throughout the month of July caused great damage to the wheat crop. Immense breadths have been prostrated by the heavy rains, and in many instances mildew has partially ensued, so that the quality of the grain, as well as the quantity, in the harvest of 1871 will be low, while the difficulty in cutting the crops will seriously enhance the cost. The past few days of hot summer weather have done much to check the progress of mildew, and have brought on the harvest satisfactorily, but somewhat prematurely. It will be general throughout the country in the present week. Early peas are in great measure already secured, and in excellent condition, the haulm being nearly equal in quality to meadow hay. The potato crops are exceedingly good, and but little affected by disease. Harvest prospects now depend upon the weather; and, should the remainder of the season prove dry and suitable for field operations, a good general supply may be secured. No ground for despondency will in that case be left. In fact, the prospects for the ensuing winter, taken in the aggregate, were scarcely ever better. The crops of flax, of roots, and of "spring corn" have, as we have seen, seldom been exceeded, and will, by giving ample food for farm stock, more than compensate for a defective yield of wheat.

Another source of congratulation in connection with our harvest prospects may be found at the present day in the great efforts our intelligent and enterprising farmers are making to supply food for a rapidly-increasing population. Landlords and tenants vie with each other in the great strife of peace, whose humane object is the establishment of the surest means of plenty. In providing for a nation's sustenance it was above all things necessary that the unwise restrictions upon culture and farm management, which were too often imposed by landowners, should give way to modern ideas of agricultural practice. In a very great degree this desirable consummation has come to pass, and confidence between landlord and tenant is so entirely restored that increased capital is everywhere being applied to husbandry.

Butcher's meat is undeniably dear; but, as we have shown, the abundance of provender of all kinds is such as to promise an un-failing reaction before the year is out—and already pork is much lower in price. Foreign cattle are now freely imported—happily, in great numbers—for fattening purposes. Dangerous cattle diseases have nearly subsided, and the pasturage of the country, upon which additional flocks and herds are grazing, was never in a more productive state. So that, taking a comprehensive view of harvest prospects, fair supplies of food may be looked for.—*Telegraph.*

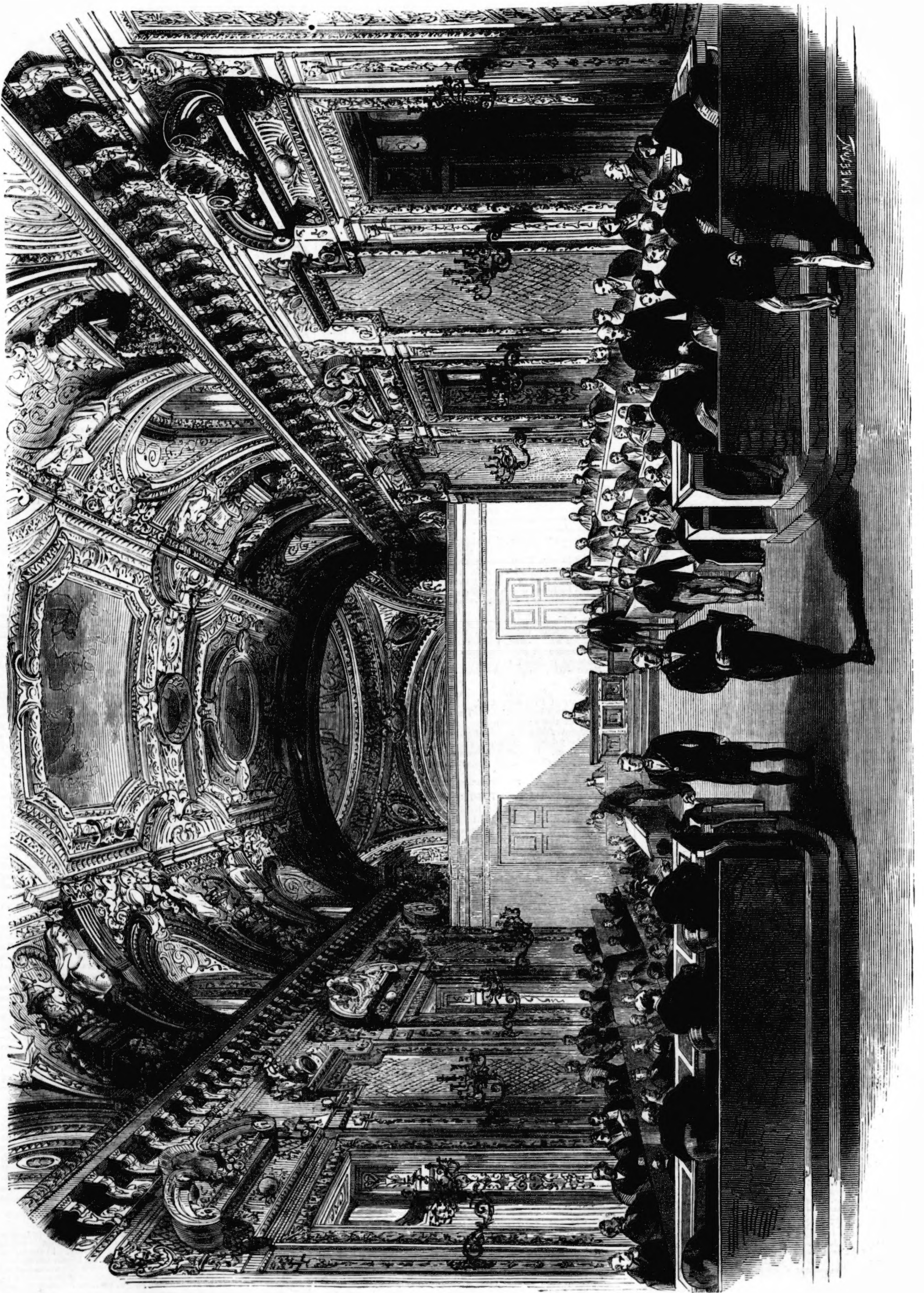
THE PARIS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

PARIS now possesses a regularly constituted municipal council, and it is to be hoped that the members will take more interest in the performance of their duties than the citizens did in the election of the members. The abstentions from voting were so numerous that more than half the council had to be balloted for a second time before the requisite majorities could be obtained. The final voting took place on the 30th ult., and resulted in the following being the composition of the Council:—Conservative members brought forward by the Parisian Union, 38; moderate Republicans whose names were on both the Parisian Union's list and the list of the Rue de Turbigo, 7; more decided Republicans recommended by the Committee of the Rue de Turbigo alone, 27; ultra-Radicals, 10. Scarcely one half the registered electors took part in the voting, and the Moderate journals severely blame the apathy of the Party of Order which has rendered it possible for such Radicals as Ranc, Mottu, Lockroy, Clemenceau, and others to be returned. The council held its first meeting on the 4th inst., and elected M. Vautrain president by 69 out of 70 votes. MM. Adam and Tremy have been nominated vice-presidents, and MM. Leveillé, Martial, Bernard, Marmottau, and Felix Dehaynin secretaries. The report of M. Léon Say, the Prefect of the Seine, after reviewing the financial position of Paris, proposes to fix at 313 millions the amount of the debt due by the city of Paris to the Crédit Foncier; that the 97 millions of the loan of 1869 which had been appropriated for the conversion of the debt to the Crédit Foncier should be paid up; that a loan should be contracted for 350 millions; and, finally, that a floating debt of 60 millions should be authorised for 1871 and 1872. At a subsequent meeting the council sanctioned these proposals, and has now suspended its sittings until the Assembly shall have authorised the loan, when it will again meet, and decide upon the manner in which the money is raised. The meetings are held in the Throne-room of the Luxembourg, the hall in which the Senate was wont to assemble under the Empire.

THE FRENCH SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

WHEN the history of the International Exhibition comes to be written the French section will certainly claim a special chapter to itself. At first it seemed as though there would be no contributions at all from France. At the time when she ought to have been preparing for South Kensington she had the great war with Prussia on her hands, and by-and-by Paris was shut up by the Germans, and communication between the two capitals was impossible except by pigeon-post or balloon. Great efforts were, however, made in this country; and almost at the last moment, by borrowing in all directions, France was fairly, if not fully, represented in the Exhibition. She still, however, had a large amount of vacant space at her own especial disposal, and this would have been promptly filled up but for the insurrection of March 18. The objects intended for exhibition were stopped by the Commune when just about to be sent off, and it was only by the intervention of M. Courbet, the Communist Minister of Fine Arts, who must at least have this credit, that they were ultimately allowed to proceed to their destination. They ultimately arrived, however; and, thanks to the energy of M. du Sommerard, the Commissioner-General for France, who has had the valuable co-operation of M. Ernest Fillonneau, the editor of the *Moniteur des Beaux Arts*, a supplementary exhibition of French art and industry was arranged, and was opened to the public on June 20. There are two large rooms or galleries devoted to this supplementary exhibition. In one from 250 to 300 pictures are displayed, and a few specimens of sculpture. One of the most striking of the pictures is the "Last Day of Corinth," by Tony Robert Fleury, which gained the médaille d'honneur at the last Paris Exhibition. Opposite to it is the work—a very large one—of a young painter named Layraud, representing a couple of travellers in the hands of Italian brigands. The artist was himself captured by brigands, and turned the occasion to account by studying the aspect and bearing of his captors. The result is that a set of ruffians are depicted with an artistic fidelity that will be only disappointing to those who are accustomed to regard such men as elegant operative heroes. Another attractive work is that by P. Van Elven, representing the statue of Strasbourg on the Place de la Concorde, as it appeared covered with wreaths and flowers when the statue was a symbol round which Parisian patriotism rallied. This was painted in Paris during the siege. Of smaller productions there is, of course, no lack, including works by Scheffer, Daubigny, Eugène Delacroix, E. Thirion, Louis David, Courbet, and others, which demand more than a cursory inspection. The other room in the exhibition will be, perhaps, even more attractive to the majority of visitors. In it are displayed some very beautiful specimens of porcelain, jewellery, bronzes, &c., by the leading Paris houses. Christofle and Co. show a very fine collection of their exquisite productions, the display of Susse Frères being especially attractive. The collection of Barbédienne, comprising lamps, vases, statuettes in bronze, and candelabra, is wonderfully fine; and that of Marnyhae, who has also a gallery in Conduit-street, claims especial notice. The arrangement of this room is thoroughly French in its artistic elegance, and the effect is simply charming. On the walls there are some choice carpets and tapestry. It need only be added that connected with this room is a real French café opening into a garden, throughout which seats are distributed, upon which, in the midst of blossoming flowers and verdant shrubs, the visitor may sit and (weather permitting) fancy himself on the Boulevards or in the Bois de Boulogne.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—Last week the aggregate mortality in London and nineteen other large cities and towns of the United Kingdom was at the rate of 26 deaths annually to every 1000 persons living. In the metropolis 2057 births and 1568 deaths were registered, the former having been 106, and the latter 56, below the average. Zymotic diseases caused 564 deaths, including 96 from smallpox, 28 from measles, 30 from scarlet fever, 5 from diphtheria, 41 from whooping-cough, 26 from different forms of fever (of which 6 were certified as typhus, 13 as enteric or typhoid, and 7 as simple continued fever), and 299 from diarrhoea. The fatal cases from the latter disease exceeded by 50 the average number returned in the corresponding period of ten years. This increase, however, was scarcely as large as might have been expected from the high temperature which prevailed. These 299 deaths from diarrhoea included 234 of infants under one year of age, 34, aged one year, and but 31 of children aged above one year and adults. To cholera and choleraic diarrhoea 15 deaths were referred, against 17 and 18 in the two preceding weeks. Thirteen were of infants not exceeding one year, and two were of adult females, both certified as "choleraic diarrhoea."



FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF PARIS AT THE LUXEMBOURG PALACE.



THE FRENCH ANNEXE AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

A SOCIETY is being established at Turin for the purpose of discouraging the use of the knife, which is now so constantly resorted to in street brawls and other quarrels. Besides moral means, such as lectures, meetings, and dramatic representations, books, &c., the society will employ material agents, such as medals in gold, silver, and copper, and gifts of money in the form of banknotes. A senator, the Marquis Visi di Villanarumia, is president, and many of the leading citizens of Turin are on the committee. When 500 members have been obtained there will be a general meeting.

THE BALLOT BILL DIVISION IN THE LORDS.

MOVED "That the bill be now read a second time"—(The Lord President). Objected to. An amendment moved, "To leave out 'now' and insert 'this day six months'."—(The Earl of Shaftesbury). On question. "That 'now' stand part of the motion." Contents, 48; Not-contents, 97.

CONTENTS.

LORD CHANCELLOR.	BISHOP.	LORDS.
Hatherley.	Oxford.	Meldrum (M. Huntly)
St. Albans (teller).	Aetion.	Methuen
MARQUESSES.	Belper.	Minster (M. Conyngham)
Allesbury.	Boyle (E. Cork and Orrery) (teller).	Monson
Lansdowne.	Camoy.	Northbrook
Ripon.	Chesbam.	Ponsonby (E. Bessborough)
Camperdown.	Clandebye (L. Dufferin and Clandebye).	Robartes
Clarendon.	Clifford of Chudleigh.	Romilly
Cowper.	Congleton.	Seaton
Ducie.	De Tabley.	Strafford
Granville.	Ebury.	Suffield
Kimberley.	Elliott.	Sundridge (D. Argyll)
Morley.	Gwydir.	Vernon
St. Germans.	Lough.	Westworth
VISCOUNTS.	Lurgan.	Wolverton
Hallifax.		Wrottesley.
Sydney.		
Torrington.		

NOT-CONTENTS.

DUKES.	EARLS.	LORDS.
Beaufort.	Powis.	Gage (V. Gage)
Beckingham & Chandos.	Romney.	Granley
Richmond.	Russell.	Grinstead (E. Enniskillen)
Ratland.	Sandwich.	Hartismere (L. Henniker)
Somerset.	Shaftesbury (teller).	Hawke
Wellington.	Shrewsbury.	Heytesbury
MARQUESSES.	Somers.	Hylton
Abercorn (D. Abercorn).	Stanhope.	Kesteven
Bath.	Verulam.	Leconfield
Exeter.	Viscounts.	Loxley and Holland (E. Egmont)
Hertford.	Bangor.	Lynden
Salisbury.	De Vesci.	Northwick
EARLS.	Harding.	O'Neill
Abergavenny.	Hawarden.	Oranmore and Browne
Amberst.	Hood.	Raglan
Bathurst.	Melville.	Rede-dale
Bedford.	Strathallan.	Rivers
Brooke and Warwick.	Bagot.	Saltoun
Chesterfield.	Braybrooke.	Seardsdale
Denbigh.	Brodrick (V. Midleton).	Sheffield (E. Sheffield)
Derby.	Carleton (E. Shannon).	Silchester (E. Longclinton)
Devon.	Chelmsford.	Skelmersdale (teller)
Gainsborough.	Claughton.	Somerhill (M. Clanricarde)
Hardwicke.	Claughton (E. Roden).	Southampton
Harrowby.	Clinton.	Strathmairn
Hillsborough (M. Downshire).	Colchester.	Templemore
Hove.	Colonsay.	Thurlow
Lanesborough.	Colonsay.	Tredegar
Macclesfield.	Denman.	Tyrone (M. Waterford)
Manvers.	Egerton.	Zouch of Haryngworth.
Mount-Edgumbe.	Fisherwick (M. Donegal).	
Nelson.	Fitzwalter.	
P. riarlington.	Foxford (E. Limerick).	

PAIRS.

For.	Against.	For.	Against.
Powerscourt, Vis.	Dunmore, Earl	Albion, Lord	Donnerdale, Visct
Abingdon, Lord	Lytton, Lord	Albion, Lord	Donnerdale, Visct
Cathness, Earl	Strathmore, Earl	Spencer, Earl	Athole, Duke
O'Hagan, Lord	Carleton, Earl	Hatherton, Lord	Northumberland, Duke
Kildare, Marquis	Montrose, Duke	Poldmire, Lord	Marlborough, D.
Devonshire, Duke	Winchester, Marq	Portsmouth, Earl	Berwick, Lord
Lovelace, Lord	Leven, Earl	Southesk, Earl	Erne, Earl
Ribblesdale, Lord	S. amford, Earl	Beaumont, Lord	Courtown, Earl
Sigo, Marquis	Dartmouth, Earl	Stair, Earl	Headley, Lord
Stafford, Earl	Tankerville, Earl	Roxburgh, Duke	Lonsdale, Earl
Rollo, Lord	Lucan, Earl	Durham, Earl	Morton, Earl
T. wenshead, Marq	Bristol, Marquis	Dunraven, Earl	Sinclair, Lord
M. styne, Lord	Sondes, Lord	Carleton, Lord	Harrington, Earl
Law, Lord	De Ros, Lord	Dacre, Lord	Aveland, Lord
Lifford, Earl	Vane, Earl	Lawrence, Lord	Malmesbury, Earl
S. ynd and Seale, Lord	Kilmaine, Lord	Sandhurst, Lord	Tweeddale, Marq
Y. x, Lord	Sherborne, Lord	Howard of Glossop, Lord	Grey, Earl
Kinnaird, Lord	Colville, Lord	Monck, Viscount	Ventry, Lord
U. ven, Earl	Coveney, Earl	Westminster, Mar	Wenlock, Lord
Greider, Lord	Gough, Viscount	Falmouth, Visct	De L'Isle, Lord
Greville, Lord	Lauderdale, Earl	Penance, Lord	Radnor, Earl
Granard, Earl	Bandon, Earl	Landon, B. hop of	Rayleigh, Lord
Ilstow, Earl	Manchester, Duke	Delawarr, Earl	Cairns, Lord
Arkle, Earl	Cadogan, Earl	Carlington, Lord	Ormskirk, Lord
Sutherland, Duke	Wemyss, Earl	Dudley, Earl	Abinger, Lord
Lowat, Lord	Ravenworth, Lord		
St. fton, Earl	Drogheda, Marq		

SUNDAY FUNERALS.—A deputation appointed at the meeting of London undertakers, held at Freemasons' Hall some time ago, on the subject of Sunday funerals, had an interview, last Saturday, with Archbishop Manning to urge the closing of the Roman Catholic cemetery at Leyton on Sundays. Dr. Manning said he entirely sympathized with the movement, and would not only do what he could towards eventually closing Leyton cemetery on Sundays, but he would also consider how he could otherwise further the object in view. In the mean time he would give instructions to the Catholic clergy to discourage among their congregations as much as possible the practice of Sunday burials. The deputation have, it is stated, visited some of the boards of the principal cemeteries which still remain open on Sundays, and have good hope of ultimate success.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.—On Monday was issued the report of the Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons, on June 16 last, to "inquire whether, having regard to the various rights and interests involved, it is expedient that the land reclaimed from the Thames, and lying between Whitehall-gardens and Whitehall place, should, in whole or in part, be appropriated for the advantage of the inhabitants of the metropolis, and, in such case, in what manner such appropriation should be effected." The Committee are of opinion that the lands belonging to the Crown, lying between the roadway and the line running continuously with the wall of the House gardens, subject to such modifications as may be agreed upon by exchange of land or otherwise between the Metropolitan Board of Works and the Office of Woods, reclaimed from the Thames at the expense of the ratepayers of the metropolis, should be appropriated as a garden for the use of the public, at a rental calculated after the rate paid for the adjoining portions of land reclaimed and appropriated by the Act of 1862 to the Crown tenants at the instance of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests; and that such land should be offered upon lease to the Metropolitan Board of Works at a rental calculated as aforesaid. The Committee are of opinion that Her Majesty's Government should take the requisite measures for carrying into effect the objects above recommended; and that, if necessary, they should introduce a bill into Parliament for that purpose.

SIR WILLIAM THOMSON'S IDEA OF THE ORIGIN OF VEGETABLE LIFE ON THE GLOBE.—We are not aware that Sir William Thomson stated that even a single seed, such as he speaks of, was ever found in any one of the many meteoric masses which have been known to have fallen on the earth; but one may freely allow the possibility of innumerable seeds having so been scattered through space by cometary collisions or explosions. All this, however, although it brings us the new idea of a sort of pleasant and neighbourly interchange of botanical and even zoological specimens that may be going on throughout the planetary systems, sheds no new spark of light upon the origin of life in the abstract. We are still as far as ever from any idea of the possibility of life having had a beginning anywhere, either in the earth beneath, or in the heavens above, to which Sir William would refer us. Indeed, the question is thereby adjourned and removed altogether from beyond the field of human and terrestrial experience, to regions and conditions of which we know absolutely nothing. But the greater probability, we think, that if life ever originated, it is quite as likely to have originated on this planet as anywhere else—the own life of the planet we mean—animal, vegetable; yes, and mineral. And if the animal originated in the vegetable, quite as likely is it that the vegetable originated in the mineral; for the mineral creation has a life of its own too, as anyone will admit who ever studied the beautiful and often arborescent forms and growth of chemical combinations. No doubt it is easy to say, "Oh, but that is a different sort of life from vegetable life." No doubt it is; but so is vegetable life a different sort of life from animal life. There is a strong analogy, however, between all three; and that analogy centres in arborescence, as a kind of essential form or principle common to all these regions of nature. In short, if the origin of animal life is based upon and issues from the principles of vegetable life, as Sir William Thomson and other men of science seem to hint, undoubtedly the origin of vegetable life is based upon and issues from the principles of mineral life; and there is plenty of that on the face of our earth itself without any necessity for being dependent upon other worlds for the germs of that vegetable life whence the life of animals is supposed to be evolved.—*Builder*.

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CHOLERA PANIC.

OUR readers know what has happened within the last few days in regard to cholera. A case of very severe illness, accompanied with cramp, blueness of complexion, and a peculiar circumstance to which the word "rice-water" has been always applied as peculiarly descriptive, occurred in the neighbourhood of Regent-street. The doctor in attendance immediately wrote to the newspapers to say that a case of true Asiatic cholera had appeared in London. Then came comments from the journals, a question in the House of Commons, and an assurance from the Government that the case, after all, was probably not true "Asiatic" cholera.

The person who cannot guess the next step must be very dull indeed. Not only is the particular physician condemned—as he reasonably might be—for being in haste to write to the newspapers, when he would have done far better to communicate with the Board of Health, but we have long lectures from all manner of wiseacres concerning the wonderful effects of fear in spreading even Asiatic cholera. Now let us look at this matter.

In the first place, any doctor who, for the sake of notoriety or out of indiscreet eagerness, makes an incorrect statement that a dreadful disease is present among us when it is not so, is deserving of much blame. That, as the French have it, goes without saying—it is obvious. But, on the other hand, he may have his distrust of Boards of Health and Government authorities generally, and may think it is impossible too hastily to sound the alarm that shall make people careful of the water they drink. There might, for what this doctor knew, be twenty cases the same night. At all events, this particular topic of blame is very soon exhausted. The man was probably in haste, and there is an end. But we must bear in mind that he still persists that the case was one of true Asiatic cholera—a point upon which we reserve a word or two more.

Next comes the question of panic—we mean next in the order of narrative. And here we find no end of assurances that "fear" is one great predisposing cause of Asiatic cholera. We have no doubt that panic of every description is a bad thing, and that whatever lowers the tone of the system predisposes to illness; but in what way is "Asiatic cholera" distinguished from any other disease in this respect? In other words, supposing a person is subject to none of the usual proximate causes of the disease, why should "fear" make him have it? No answer can be given. All the fright in the world will not give a man smallpox, unless there be a concurrence, and much more than a concurrence, namely, a pre-occurrence, of other conditions favourable to the disease. Whatever reduces the general energy predisposes to disease. Who doubts it? But there is also this to be said—namely, that the average human being is so dull, so slow to feel an alarm, so slack at taking wise precautions, that even if we frighten one person into the disease (supposing that possible) it may be cheap to kill him, because a hundred persons may then begin to be a little cautious. Let any householder who has tried during the last few weeks to enforce necessary regulations as to the drinking-water under his roof answer for this.

But the fact is, all we have said is intended to lead up to a conclusion which is not particularly calculated to create "panic," though it is to make us always cautious. Science tends more and more to wipe off the slate of pathology all specific diseases and specific remedies, and to reduce old-fashioned varieties to generic terms. Briefly, we do not believe in "Asiatic cholera," except as a very terrible form of a disease which is always either active or dormant among us. We do, indeed, believe in cosmic conditions, as yet inscrutable to science, which recur in waves and are peculiarly favourable to the evocation of given forms of disease. It is, moreover, quite plain that a particularly awful form of "intestinal" disease arises; under such conditions, in the East, and—again under such conditions—is apt to find its way westward. But the very facts of the sanitary processes by which we have proved that we can lessen the virulence of the plague, or very much reduce the number of the seizures, point to the conclusion that there is nothing specific in what is called "Asiatic cholera," but that it is an ordinary affection in so virulent and aggravated a form that it is often assumed to be specific. The practical conclusions are two—first, no care can be too great; second, care is all but omnipotent as a preventive.

A FUND has been formed, under the auspices of Sir Antonio Brady and Mr. R. B. Wingfield Baker, M.P., to assist in the work of preserving Epping Forest for the people, and to provide the means of watching and preventing encroachments contrary to law.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, accompanied by Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice, arrived at Windsor Castle on Tuesday evening, and left again on Wednesday for Balmoral.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH was one of Dr. Guthrie's congregation at the Free Church, Lochee, on Sunday. The collection was the largest ever made since the church was built.

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF BRAZIL have left England for the Continent.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE has promised to preside at the 207th anniversary festival of the Scottish Corporation, which will take place at the Freemasons' Tavern on St. Andrew's Day.

MR. GRANVILLE LEVESON-GOWER, who sat in a former Parliament for Reigate, will be proposed as a candidate for East Surrey, in the room of the late lamented Mr. Buxton. Mr. James Watney, jun., eldest son of Mr. Watney, of Haling Park, Croydon, and a partner in the firm of Messrs. Watney and Co., of Piccadilly, has consented to stand in the Conservative interest.

THE SOUTH METROPOLITAN TRAMWAY was opened, on Monday, from the Elephant and Castle to the foot of Blackfriars Bridge.

PUBLIC MEETINGS are being held in the north and east of London in furtherance of the Alexandra Palace scheme.

THE BIRMINGHAM HORSE SHOW, which was opened on Tuesday, is described as one of the best held in that town for many years.

OF SEVEN HUNDRED STUDENTS of the Berlin University who served in the army during the late war, twenty-eight fell in defence of their country.

MR. NOBLE'S STATUE OF SIR JAMES OUTRAM, which has been erected on the Thames Embankment, at the end of Whitehall-place, was unveiled on Thursday.

THE DEANERY OF ST. PAUL'S has been offered by Mr. Gladstone to the Rev. R. W. Church, Rector of Whitley, and formerly Fellow and Tutor of Oriel College.

A HOUSE IN CRESCENT-TERRACE, West Cliff, Whitby, has been engaged for the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone and his family from the 21st inst.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT occurred, on Wednesday evening, to the express-train from Carlisle to Birmingham. At a station three miles from Wolverhampton the express ran into a mineral-goods train with such force that the driver and some thirty passengers were seriously injured, one of whom, at least, is not expected to survive.

A VERY SERIOUS COLLISION took place, late on Tuesday night, in the Mersey, between the Mediterranean steamer Morocco, inward bound, and the Dublin steamer Glasgow. Just as the latter had left dock she came into collision with the Morocco, on board which the Glasgow passengers had to scramble, as there was but time to tow her into dock before sinking.

MR. THIERS has appointed Mr. O. Scanlan, the director of the Irish Ambulance during the war, to be a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. The principal persons connected with that ambulance will also receive decorations.

A BOAT containing a pleasure party of six was proceeding down the Thames on Sunday evening, when, off Blackwall, it capsized, and four of the little company were drowned.

THE HEALTH OF BURNES AYRES is completely restored. Winter has set in, and the doctors were saying it would be the healthiest winter the city had known for some years. Sanitary reforms are about to be carried out on a great scale.

THREE RICKS belonging to Mr. Spearman, of Whittington Hall, near Stourbridge, has been destroyed, one of them having been deliberately set on fire by children who were playing with lucifer-matches.

A YOUNG MAN NAMED VICCARS, aged twenty-two, while playing at cricket in Stanley Park, Liverpool, last Saturday evening, was struck on the side of the head with the ball. He was removed to his house, but died sixteen hours afterwards of concussion of the brain.

A TERRIBLE THUNDERSTORM burst over Cardiff about four o'clock on Sunday afternoon. A police station was struck by a meteoric stone and some damage was done, but fortunately no one was injured. Among other curious phenomena, "a shower of small green frogs" fell during the storm. A severe thunderstorm, accompanied by heavy rain and hail, also visited Cornwall, on Monday. A few accidents to sheep are reported.

THE NEW COLLEGE AT DOVER is to be opened on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Earl Granville is the president, and the Rev. William Bell, M.A., of Christ's College, Cambridge, late assistant master in the Royal Grammar School, Lancaster, has been appointed to the head-mastership.

THE EXCHEQUER RECEIPTS from April 1 to Aug. 12 amounted to £23,081,548, an increase of rather over half a million upon the return in the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure has been £28,231,944. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £602,330, and in the Bank of Ireland, £1,016,948.

FROM A RECORD OF THE HEAT of the past few days, which has been kept at Kew, it is shown that while on Monday, the 7th inst., the maximum temperature in the sun was 112 deg. Fahrenheit, and in the shade 82, on Sunday last it had risen to 125 in the sun, and 91 in the shade.

THE TWELFTH OF AUGUST was duly observed, at Derry, last Saturday, when the Apprentice Boys, headed by Mr. Johnston, M.P., attempted to form a procession, but dispersed upon the reading of the Riot Act. In the evening several street fights took place between the rival partisans, but there was no general disturbance.

A FATAL ACCIDENT occurred, on Sunday afternoon, in the Thames at Cookham. A boating-party from London were bathing in a place called Oldney Pool, and one of them, a young man named Gawley, who could not swim, was particularly cautioned that the place was dangerous. He dived, however, from the weir, and never rose to the surface. His body was not recovered for three quarters of an hour.

ON SUNDAY 300 policemen went to Phoenix Park, Dublin, to prevent any meeting which might take place. There was no meeting. A conference of the promoters of last Sunday's meeting was held in the evening, when it was decided to take criminal proceedings against the police and to institute civil actions against the authorities.

A MEETING TOOK PLACE IN HYDE PARK, on Sunday evening, for the purpose of expressing sympathy with those of the working classes of Dublin who suffered from the treatment of the police at the late meeting in Phoenix Park. The chair was taken by Mr. Oiger, and resolutions protesting against the conduct of the police and of sympathy with the people of Ireland were passed.

IN RUSSIA SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENTS have been made in heating locomotives with naphtha. The engineer Povietki went 180 kilometres in a steam-boat heated in this manner. The engine worked very regularly, though the weather was stormy. The quantity of naphtha necessary is 55 per cent less than that of coal, and the engineer estimates that this difference may, by perfecting the manipulation, be brought up to 60 per cent. On the other hand, the pond (40 lb.) of naphtha costs 1 copeck (4 centimes) in the Caucasus.

THE ADMIRALTY have ordered a commencement to be made of the squadron of small, handy, heavily-armoured gun-vessels, two of which were on Monday laid down in the dock at Chatham in which they are to be built. Three others of the same description of vessel will be commenced as soon as the work now in hand at Chatham dockyard will allow. The new gun-vessels are to be 150 ft. in length, and of light draught, each drawing under 9 ft. of water. Each of these vessels will carry four guns, two of which will be of a large calibre.

A PARLIAMENTARY RETURN states that eight Fenian convicts are still in prison who were convicted of being concerned in the Manchester outrage in 1867. Two of them, Edward Shore and Patrick Melody, are under sentence of penal servitude for life, having been originally sentenced to death; the others are undergoing a sentence of five years' penal servitude, with two years' hard labour concurrent. No one is now in custody for being concerned in the Clerkenwell outrage, and no Irishman is under punishment for treason felony.

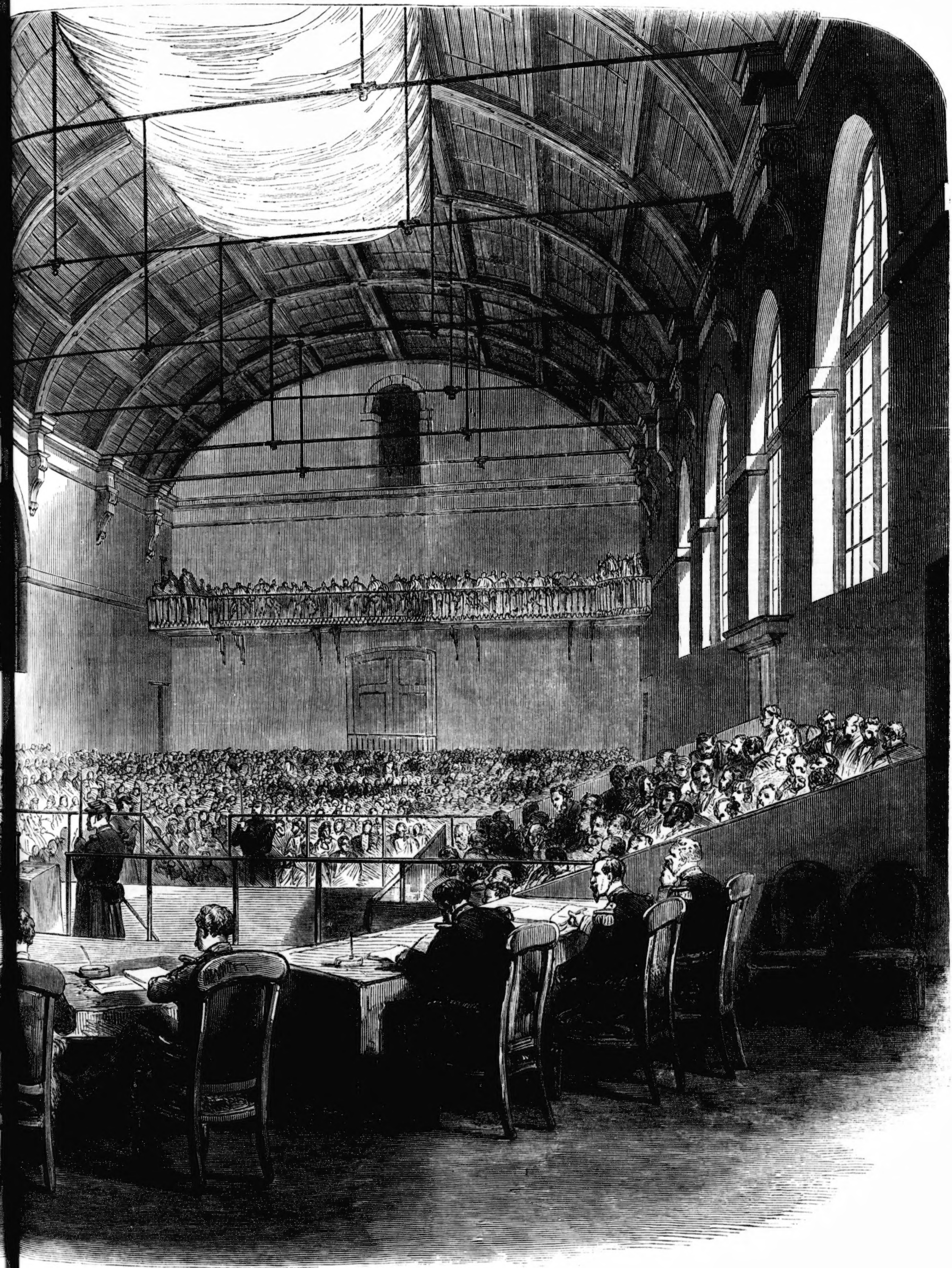
THE SCOTT CENTENARY was celebrated on Tuesday in London, the 15th being the real birthday of the great novelist and poet. There were banquets at the Cannon-street Hotel and at St. James's Hall, the chief speakers being Mr. Hepworth Dixon at the former and Dr. C. Rogers at the latter. At the Crystal Palace a grand competition of bagpipers took place. So intensely Gaelic were the latter that the exclamation of Macduff must have been on many a lip—"Stands Scotland where it did?"

THE PRIZES won at the volunteer artillery competition at Shoeburyness were distributed, last Saturday, by Sir Richard Airey, Adjutant-General of the Forces, who expressed his satisfaction at the success of the meeting and at the exemplary conduct of the men in camp. Lord Hardinge also made some observations, in which he pointed out the importance of supplementing the Royal Artillery by an auxiliary force such as that provided by the volunteers.

BARON BRAMWELL, in discharging a special jury at the Croydon Assizes, on Monday, took occasion to remark upon the large number of cases entered for trial which had nothing whatever to do with the county of Surrey. The inconvenience of bringing witnesses, suitors, and special juries from London to Croydon was, he said, considerable; and this might be avoided, and much expense saved, if such cases could be disposed of in the metropolis.



TRIAL OF THE COMMUNIST PRISONERS AT VER



LES: COURT-MARTIAL IN THE RIDING SCHOOL.

THE COURT-MARTIAL ON COMMUNISTS AT VERSAILLES.

THE constitution, arrangements, and general appearance of the court-martial for the trial of the Communist leaders at Versailles were fully described in our last Number. Instead of repeating that description in connection with the accompanying Engraving, it will be more interesting to give some account of subsequent proceedings as these are contained in the following letter from the correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* :—

"Neither apathetic nor over-excited, but naively curious and a little puzzled, has been the general attitude of the spectators at the Communal trials during the first week. On the opening day there was scarcely anybody present. The papers had announced so often that the trial was irrevocably fixed for this or that wrong date that people had ceased to believe or to care much about it. On Tuesday most persons probably made the calculation that, as the court had been empty on the first day, it would be crowded to suffocation on the second, so that again there was plenty of elbow-room. It was only on Thursday that the rush for places definitely began; and one is bound to remark that most of the people who then rushed would have done as well, for decency's sake, to stay away. Mlle. Celleci and Mlle. Celleci, of the Quartier Breda, have been mustering in great force; also wives of representatives, with their children, their fans, and their opera-glasses; excursion tourists from England, a very fair sprinkling of Prussian officers in mufti, and an all-glorious collection of persons who vow that their houses were burned down by the Commune, and that they themselves were ruined, which suggests the query as to how they can possibly afford to waste day after day of their time in looking on at a trial. One of the first things that strikes one on entering the court is the singular fairness of the presiding officer as compared with ordinary civil judges. I have seen both felons and journalists tried in France; and, although the felons got much the best of it so far as judicial fairplay was concerned, yet even they had to put up with a system of badgering which drove bystanders into wild sympathy with the accused, whoever he might be—burglar, coiner, or cut-throat. I have a particular recollection of a trial in which a prisoner arraigned for murder (he was subsequently acquitted), being baited out of all endurance, exclaimed at length, 'Upon my word, M. le Président, one would think you were going to earn a bonus by having my head cut off.' M. le Colonel Merlin, who presides over the Third Court, seems a soldier and a gentleman. His impartiality might not, perhaps, stand a test beside that of your Queen's Bench, but he evidently wishes to do his duty to the best of his lights; and it gives one a certain pleasure to see him pick his words in order that his questions may assume as inoffensive a form as possible. To be sure, he has every incentive to moderation in the conduct of the audience, which is outrageously biased. This is the first political trial in France since that of Charles X.'s Ministers in 1831 where the sympathies of the public have not been overwhelmingly in favour of the defendants; and really in this case the prisoners must be congratulated on pleading before a military jurisdiction; for, tried by a jury of Parisian householders, they would stand at the present moment no chance whatever. Your Parisian bourgeois is indulgent up to a certain point, but then he becomes ferocious. There is no twilight in his sentiments; they are either sunny or pitch dark. It is Colonel Merlin's daily mission, not as under the last reign, to suppress flattering murmurs addressed to the counsel for the defence, but to cry out that he shall clear the court if the audience exclaim 'Oh, oh!' and 'Ah, ah!' when the prisoners make a statement. These adverse manifestations generally begin in the afternoon. Up to luncheon hour everybody is tolerably mute and decorous. People do not seem altogether sure about the solidity of the prisoners' dock, and cast uneasy glances at M. Lullier, whose physiognomy is certainly against him. But when the half-hour's adjournment arrives and spectators have time to make the acquaintance of their next neighbours, while munching chocolate and sipping Malaga out of flasks, there is a universal loosening of tongues, which produces a frothy sort of agitation during the second part of the sitting. Your next neighbour is pretty sure to be one of those afflicted citizens above mentioned who have had their houses burned down. It is remarkable how abundant this race has become since May 24. Previously it was the 'besieged residents' who had made a sortie and captured a cannon who abounded. Everybody claimed to have captured a cannon; and now everybody protests that he bearded the Commune, was imprisoned, sentenced to death, only escaped by an ace, and has a clear right either to a monetary compensation or to the cross of honour. I have been favoured with this kind of summary at least a dozen times during the past week; and the only wonder is that the Commune should have lived a single day, seeing the number of valourous persons there were in open arms against it. Another interesting type is the actress 'who was forced to remain.' I could not help overhearing the conversation of one of these ladies, who was recounting with great volubility to a gentleman near me how she had received a visit from 'one of them with a red sash' just as all her boxes were packed and ready for starting. 'So we learn you are going to Versailles?' began that 'horreur d'homme,' with a bow. 'Yes,' I answered. 'Well, citoyenne,' said he, 'if you and all the other accomplished actresses fly Paris, the theatres will be obliged to close, and it will be said that we do not protect the arts, so you must remain.' 'But what if I don't?' 'Oh, but you will!' and I assure you by those simple words he made my blood run cold. 'And what came of it?' inquired the gentleman. 'Well, of course, I remained,' answered the actress; with a sigh, 'and I used to see "ce scelerat" come one or twice a week in the stalls and applaud me. Ah, le brigand! how I wished somebody would get up and shoot him. But nobody did, and every time I came out, by the stage door I used to tremble all over, lest I should find a company of his soldiers waiting to arrest me. "Tenez, jamais je n'ai maigri comme dans ces six semaines là..."

"Of the demeanour of the prisoners there is little to be said. Doubtless, more than one of them might be saved if he would consent to speak civilly and give up being sarcastic at the expense of the Court. But you cannot change human nature; and a French defendant's nature is to shrug his shoulders, gesticulate, give the lie direct to the witnesses, and behave himself generally as if his sole aim were to exasperate the Judges. Another seemingly ineradicable propensity is to oggle the audience. The French defendant turns so naturally for encouragement to the benches where the public sit, that, when his sallies strike no echo there, his immediate impulse is to exclaim, as Urbain did the other day, 'Je renonce à me défendre devant un pareil public.' The most correct attitude as yet has been Assi's. Handsome, not undignified, and with a pleasing voice, he has had the merit of answering all questions straightforwardly. He has a knack of holding up his head and looking his interlocutor straight in the face while replying, which suggests the idea that he cares little which way the matter is settled. Whether this feeling be genuine or assumed is another matter. I have had the curiosity to inquire from more trustworthy sources than French newspapers what is the deportment of the prisoners when the day's trial is over, and I find that the man who keeps up his spirits best is precisely the one over whom the most convincing charges seem to hang—Ferre. The prisoners are allowed to read newspapers, and all avail themselves of the privilege; but it puzzles one at first to hear that the papers they prefer are not those which, like *Le Siècle* and *La Vérité*, show a tendency to take their part, but the *Figaro* and *Gaulois*, which avow a degree of animus that borders on cruelty. One may feel as bitterly as one pleases on the subject of the Communal doings; but the *Figaro* and *Gaulois* both overstep the limits of what is either fair or becoming when they comment, as they do, upon the evidence, and endeavour to close every door by which these unfortunate men may escape. M. Paschal Grousset, in his confinement, has given symptoms of repentance—he confesses himself regularly. M. Courbet passes his leisure hours in sketching; he appears to think that the most he can be sentenced to will be five

years' imprisonment, and in this he is probably not far wrong; for public opinion, always generous towards artists, has more than half forgiven him for his crusade against the Vendôme Column. Besides, it has been ascertained now that it was positively M. Courbet who saved the Louvre collection from being dispersed, and this would clearly entitle him to the indulgence which was extended to M. Beslay, who saved the Bank of France from being sacked."

SEEKING KNOWLEDGE IN THE SEA.

ON the day after the conclusion of the British Association meeting the members and associates had their usual opportunity of taking part in some one of various pleasure excursions into the surrounding neighbourhood. No less than six of such excursions were organised; and one of them, under the direction of Professor Wyville Thompson, went dredging in the Firth of Forth. Either from fear of sea-sickness, or from the greater attractions of land scenery, very few ladies joined themselves to the party; and the presence of more than one naturalist of European reputation assisted in giving an air of reality to the work that was to be done. The expedition proceeded by rail to North Berwick, where a steam-tug was in waiting to convey them to the Thane of Fife, a commodious passenger-steamer chartered for the occasion. The tug was then taken in tow by the larger steamer, and both proceeded to the offing to carry out the business of the day.

Beyond a general impression that the object of dredging is to bring into view some of the teeming life of the bottom of the sea, it is, perhaps, fair to assume that a large proportion of the public know very little about the nature of the operation. This much, at least, is certain, that some of the party saw a dredge for the first time; and it may therefore not be out of place to describe an implement which, during the last three or four years, has added enormously to the sum of human knowledge. A dredge may be roughly compared to a landing-net on rather a large scale, and intended to be dragged along the bottom of the sea. It is made oblong instead of circular, in order to give its lower edge a sufficient contact with the surface over which it is dragged. Various patterns are employed, differing in certain details, but alike in principle. That used on this occasion consisted of a rectangular iron frame, about 4 ft. long and 6 in. wide. On one side the edges of this frame were somewhat everted, while on the other side a net was affixed. Two iron bars, one attached to a cross piece near each end of the frames met in a common ring, to which a tow-rope was secured. When resting on the bottom, the dredge was dragged forward by the progress of the steamer, one edge or "lip" of the frame in contact with the bottom, so as to scrape up from the surface and then to retain in the net any forms of sub-aqueous life that were encountered.

Besides a number of such dredges the tug carried also a trawl, which is a net constructed on a similar principle, but of much greater dimensions, and calculated to retain flat fish and other larger denizens of the deep. Individual naturalists were also provided with muslin bags or cane hoops, intended to catch floating creatures, and a store of wide-mouthed bottles had been provided for the reception of living treasures of every kind. At the pier-side, before embarking, a few casts of a muslin bag were rewarded by two beautiful specimens of bery, a tulip-shaped jelly-fish that floats mouth upwards, its delicate whiteness brought into relief by fine pink lines, along which rows of vibratile cilia keep up perpetual currents of water. There were also some small medusae darting about in the glass jar of sea water in which they were placed, and displaying to perfection the varying states of their coverings and tentacula. As soon as the two steamers were well under way a dredge was lowered from the Thane of Fife and the trawl from the tug, and the two soon after parted company, to meet again when the trawl was hauled up. The first cast of the dredge brought only a few crinoids, two sea-urchins, and two of the commonest (five-rayed) star-fish, and to this slender catalogue there were only a few subsequent additions, of which a thirteen-rayed star fish was the most important. The steamer made the circuit of the Bass Rock, startling with bell and whistle the thousands of sea fowl that live and breed on its inaccessible sides, and again joined company with the tug, to which most of the passengers then transferred themselves. The crew were already dragging in the trawl; and its multitudinous captives were soon struggling on the deck, and being pounced upon in all directions. Eager naturalists were hunting for marine rarities; and mere idlers were seeking to secure some eatable trophies of the expedition. Plaice and soles and skate, in only moderate quantity, were intermingled with numbers of smaller flat fish of various kinds; with cuttle-fish, ascidians, star fish, sea urchins, and the like. A marine electrical eel, and three fine specimens of the red or Norway lobster, were at once seized upon by collectors; and the wide-mouthed bottles were on all sides filled with treasures of lesser value, while the mere pot-sportsmen were busy stringing plaice into bunches after the fashion in which little boys carry home their evening's catch of dace upon rushes. The ladies of the party had mostly provided themselves with sponge bags, and were busy filling them with star fish, while, at the same time, they sought advice as to the manner in which their prizes could be preserved. In this way a very eager, happy, busy hour was spent, and then the time came at which the steamer must be steered for shore, where the return train to Edinburgh awaited the tourists.

What was thus done on a very small and imperfect scale, only as the amusement of an otherwise idle morning, has its interest as conveying some idea of the nature and objects of an expedition somewhat similar in kind which is about to be made a national undertaking. Attention has more than once been called to the results that have been obtained by the deep-sea dredging expeditions which have been carried on for short periods, at intervals, during the last three years, under the direction of Dr. Carpenter, Professor Wyville Thompson, and Mr. Gwyn Jeffries. These expeditions have been directed, not only to bring up the life of the deep sea, but also to test its composition and to measure its temperature and the force and direction of its currents. They have already produced results which are in many respects totally opposed to all previous conjecture. They have shown that the profoundest depths of the ocean, in which it was supposed that neither light nor life could exist, are inhabited by complex living organisms, possessing fully-developed eyes. They have shown that the deep-sea temperature, instead of being stationary at 39 deg., descends to just about the freezing-point; that this temperature is so controlled by currents that an Arctic and a temperate fauna may co-exist within a very short distance of each other; that the process of chalk formation is still being actively continued by countless myriads of globigerina; and that the differences in temperature and density between equatorial and polar water are sufficient to maintain a constant interchange of both, by which various deep and superficial currents may be explained, and by which the rigour of northern climates is perceptibly modified in certain places. The statements contained in these few sentences are sufficient to invalidate the data on which many conclusions about the periods of geological time and the nature of geological formations have been based; and they open out altogether new views with regard to many of the chief problems of biology. They rest, at present, upon observations neither sufficiently numerous nor made over a sufficiently extended area to be beyond the reach of doubt, and the influence of the Royal Society has induced the Admiralty to take up a similar line of research, with a view to its complete prosecution. For this purpose it is now announced that an expedition will be equipped next year, to be absent four years, and during that time to carry on deep-sea dredging and deep-sea temperature soundings in every part of the ocean from which it is thought that valuable knowledge may be gained.

THE RE-VALUATION OF LANCASHIRE, now being made, is expected to show an increase upon the valuation of 1864 of at least £2,600,000. In Liverpool there will be the greatest increase, the difference in the two valuations being upwards of £300,000, arising chiefly from the property of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

THE LOUNGER.

AT the end of last week it seemed impossible to get Parliament prorogued before the 24th. But on Monday night all the remaining supplies were voted. On Tuesday the House set steadily to work to push on the bills still on the paper. On Wednesday the paper was almost cleared, and now it seems to be settled that Parliament will be dismissed on Monday.

Mr. Speaker, in his evidence before the Committee on the business of the House, said that "the late hours which have got to be customary make that which ought to be an honourable occupation mere slavery." This was said in February last, and since then the House has sat, on the average, later than it ever did before. True, many years ago it would occasionally sit until five or even six in the morning, but such late hours were quite exceptional; the average sittings in those days were much shorter than they are now. The House then night after night rose long before midnight, and not unfrequently before dinner; but such early hours are extremely rare now. Obviously, something must be done to stop this practice, which in many ways is exceedingly mischievous. In the first place, it is ruinous to the health of her Majesty's Ministers. Then it makes good legislation impossible. To legislate well men's minds ought to be fresh and calm; but how can they be so at two or three in the morning? The thing is impossible. Besides, many of the best men will not stop so late, albeit bills which they specially understand and wish to discuss are upon the paper; and so the House often loses in the discussion of measures, many of them of vast importance, the assistance of its best minds. Then there is another manifest evil which has been very apparent this Session. At one o'clock the reporters shut their books, and much of our legislation is carried on, as we may say, in the dark. No publicity is given to it, and oftentimes amendments are introduced into bills seriously affecting public and private interests, which would be vigorously opposed at each successive stage, if said amendments had been published in the newspapers. This is really legislating with closed doors. On Tuesday morning, between the hours of three and four, when I looked into the House, there were only ten members present. Mr. Dodson was in the chair. The Attorney-General seemed to be conversing with him. I asked what was the business in hand, and found that Sir R. Collier was running through Committee one of the most important bills of the Session—to wit, "The Judicial Committee of Privy Council Bill." But after this six bills were advanced a stage and twenty-six votes in Supply reported, and it was not till four o'clock that the House adjourned. This legislating with closed doors will never do. Why, on this very day on which I am writing there came rushing down to the House with "winged haste," blowing like a gale, a friend of mine to get a bill which had passed the Commons altered in the Lords. The proceeding on this bill in Committee had not been reported in the papers, and he had by a mere accident discovered that an amendment of a most objectionable character had been inserted. In short, if we cannot have publicity and late hours, clearly we must give up late hours.

And so the Session is ended, and the Ministers are going into retirement. Well, let us hope they will "consider their ways," for they need to be seriously considered; for surely so many blunders were never committed by a Government since our Parliamentary Constitution was founded: indeed, when I look at the long catalogue of these mistakes I am amazed. They seem to have exercised all their ingenuity to invent means to make themselves unpopular. That Budget, for example. Was there ever such a foolish Budget? Then came the Army Bill. If they knew that the Queen, by a warrant, could abolish purchase, why, in the name of common-sense, did they not move the House to present an address to her Majesty praying her to issue her warrant? That would have been a course strictly constitutional. Mr. Goschen, by his Local Government Bill, which he never meant to carry in this Session, roused all the landlords and tenants. Mr. Bruce, by his preposterous Licensing Bill, which one moment's thought would have convinced him he could not carry, scared and alienated all the publicans, brewers, &c. By that stupid Pharmacy Bill all the chemists and druggists became alarmed and minatory; and then, lastly, though I have not exhausted the list, Mr. Lowe, no longer back then Monday, by a refusal to exempt agricultural horses which draw or carry their owners to church or chapel from a tax, sent all the Scotch members into the Opposition lobby. It is a trumpery affair—only a question of a few thousands; but Lowe was obstinate, and so the exemption was lost, but only by one vote. I am told that in Scotland, where farm horses are extensively used to carry or draw their owners and their families to kirk, this refusal will excite much anger.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A playgoer of moderately ecstatic nature must needs feel grateful to any manager bold enough to include "As You Like It," that sweet story of the Court and the forest, in his series of Shakespearean revivals. The love-making of Rosalind and Orlando is a joy for ever; and the humour of Touchstone, that quaintest of clowns, seems more healthy and enjoyable the more one hears of it. His wit mellow like old port, and "the satirical rogue" puts to shame all the feeble stage moralists of our enlightened time. Again, those who would take a lesson in the humanities of life need but listen to the noble speeches of the banished Duke. In them is contained the whole theory of charity, brotherly love, and good feeling that constitute the difference between a Christian and a heathen; and he who can listen unmoved may be a self-possessed man, but can scarcely be a good one.

I have seen many Rosalinds, from Helen Faucit downwards, and another name is now added to a catalogue as long as that of Don Giovanni's confiding victims. Miss Ada Cavendish, at present of the Gaiety, appeared in the character for the first time on Thursday week last, and contrasted very favourably with many Rosalinds gone before. She read the part well, and acted it very prettily: there was nothing great about the performance, but there was everything womanly, graceful, and expressive. Miss Cavendish had not previously been seen in any such superior line of business, and it is a pity the capability she has should have lain dormant so long. It is often argued that anyone able to play Rosalind has a very good chance of succeeding as Viola, in "Twelfth Night." Miss Cavendish may yet have an opportunity of illustrating this theory. Mr. Montgomery, as Orlando, played entirely into the hands of the lady. "Each one for himself" is necessarily the creed of actors, as of ordinary mortals; but on this occasion there was a chivalrous reserve and self-sacrifice on the part of Mr. Montgomery that merits emphatic acknowledgment. Mr. W. Rignold was the Jacques—not altogether the one I should imagine Shakespeare had in his mind's-eye. Mr. J. G. Taylor was out of place as Touchstone, but that was altogether his fault. Mr. J. Maclean I could hardly fancy querulous enough as Adam, and gave no very distinct idea of physical weakness. The Celia of Miss Kate Rivers was very good; also the Audrey of Mrs. F. B. Egan. Mr. W. McIntyre was the heaviest and most sepulchral of banished dukes. There were two or three playful little perversions of the text that could in nowise be considered improvements on the original.

On Tuesday last, the centenary of Sir Walter Scott, Mr. Montgomery was supposed to "attempt" the character of Meg Merrilies, a long way after a celebrated actress. If I mistake not, the versatile Montgomery has crooned over Harry Bertram before. I believe I have seen a benefit bill containing "The Lady of Lyons" and "Guy Rannering" in one evening, the characters of the gardener and the aged Ishmaelite by Mr. Montgomery. This is a strong impression, but capable of removal.

Monday night last saw the commencement of a new management at the CHARING-CROSS. Mr. Edward Hastings, the champion of unacted authors, assumes the responsibility; and it is somewhat remarkable that such a risk should be incurred when

genteel people are all out of town and when excessive heat drives the notion of theatre-going out of the heads of the vulgar million. Sir Charles L. Young's drama, entitled "Shadows," successfully produced a little time back at the Princess's, is the chief attraction. Mrs. Vezin and Mr. Coghlan have been engaged to play their original characters of Lady Inez and Beatrice, and Stephen and Martin Iredell. Mr. W. Rignold "doubles" as Ronald and Colonel Marwood; and Mr. Alfred plays Rochefort, Fleming and confidant of Martin Iredell. A weak farce, "Our friend and confidant," written by Mr. J. Strachan, precedes the War Correspondent, another slightly superior trifle concludes the entertainments. The less said of these specimens of dramatic compositions the better.

The PRINCE OF WALES'S is closed, and an unexpected announcement was made on Monday last that the HAY-MARKET would follow suit on Friday, and reopen in three weeks.

Mr. Arthur Sketchley is the author of a new entertainment for the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION. It was brought out on Monday night, and, being acted with uncommon spirit, met with a good reception. The title, "Near Relations," is suggestive. Sir John Marchmont (Mr. Arthur Cecil) is the victim of persevering and designing relatives, and a more finished study of character than Mr. Cecil's portrait of this ancient aristocrat has certainly not been seen of late years. At the Gallery of Illustration "doubles" are the rule. Besides appearing as the old gentleman in a gorgeous dressing-gown, Mr. Cecil personates Alfred May in a young artist, and sings "a little song of his own comb," which is a mistake; Miss Fanny Holland, as Laura Mowbray, introduces a fashionable drawing-room song, called "Since yesterday," which is a still more grievous error. Mr. "Since yesterday," which is a still more grievous error. Mr. German Reed's characters are Mr. Tozer and Dr. So Ills; and Mrs. German Reed, the mainstay of the company, plays an old Scotch housekeeper and an Irish lady of middle age and fascinating manners. The concerted music is by Mr. German Reed, and is entitled to very honourable mention.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES BUXTON, M.P.

MR. CHARLES BUXTON, M.P., died at the Lochearnhead Hotel, near Killin, Perthshire, on Thursday, Aug. 10. The hon. gentleman's health had failed for several months past, but alarming symptoms set in only a short time before his decease. Dr. Todd, of Killin, who attended the late member in his last moments, attributes his death to atrophy of the heart. Mr. Buxton was the third son of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart., of Bellfield, Dorset, and Colne House, Norfolk, by a daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Gurney, of Earham Hall, in the latter county. He was born at Cromer Hall, in 1823, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was first class in the college examinations of 1842 and 1843. When he took his B.A. degree, two years afterwards, he was ninth in the second class of the classical tripos, and eleventh junior optime in mathematics. At the general election of 1857, when Lord Palmerston appealed to the country to support his policy with respect to China, Mr. Buxton, in conjunction with Captain C. E. Mangles, contested Newport, Isle of Wight, in the Liberal interest. He was successful, coming in second on the poll, only three votes behind Captain Mangles, while Mr. Kennard and Alderman Sir W. A. Rose were defeated. Two years afterwards, when Lord Derby was in power, and Parliament was dissolved after the defeat of the Government upon their Reform Bill, Mr. Buxton offered himself to the constituency of Maidstone, and was elected, polling with Mr. Lee an equal number of votes. He represented that borough six years, and in July, 1865, responding to a general and heartily expressed invitation from the Liberal electors of East Surrey, he became a candidate for that division. The struggle was one of great severity, but it ended in the return of Mr. Locke King, with 3495 votes, and of Mr. Buxton, with 3424. Mr. Peel, the first of the unsuccessful Tory competitors, mustering 3333, and the Hon. W. Brodrick (now Viscount Midleton), 3246. About three or four months after this election occurred the outbreak in Jamaica, with the attendant severities inflicted upon the black population by the island authorities. The prominent part taken by Mr. Buxton, as a member of the Jamaica Committee, in the prosecution of Mr. E. J. Eyre will be well remembered; and, as the controversy continued as long as the Parliament of 1865 lasted, it was not surprising that efforts should be made at the dissolution, by the more vehement of his opponents, to deprive him of the seat which he had so gallantly fought for and so worthily filled. The two gentlemen who came forward to contest the division against him and Mr. Locke King were Mr. Hardman, one of the deputy chairmen of the Surrey Sessions, and Mr. Lord. The fight was not so close as at the previous election; for, while Mr. Locke King, as the tried representative of nearly thirty years' standing, came in at the head of the poll with 4162 votes, Mr. Buxton's supporters numbered 3941, or nearly 400 in excess of the foremost of the defeated Conservative candidates. From the first initiation of the volunteer movement, twelve years ago, he was one of its most active and thorough supporters, and he showed his practical interest in this national institution by doing duty as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Administrative Battalion Tower Hamlets Rifles. Mr. Buxton, who was a magistrate for the counties of Surrey and Norfolk, was married, in 1850, to Emily Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Holland, the eminent physician. Like the late Mr. Robert Hanbury, the member for Middlesex, he has been removed when it might fairly have been hoped that many years of usefulness were before him. The life which Mr. Buxton has written of his father, the well-known antagonist of the slave trade, the advocate of a reform in the penal code, and the personal friend of Wilberforce, has been widely read on both sides of the Atlantic. As a public man, Mr. Buxton was a staunch advocate of freedom, an unflinching opponent of every abuse, and a zealous worker in the cause of religious, educational, and social progress; as a country gentleman, his unostentatious kindness and unvarying liberality will be long remembered by all who came within the sphere of his influence.

A COMPLICATED CATCH.—The North Wales Chronicle treats its readers to a fine bold fisherman's adventure. Fishing at Llanrwst, so the story runs, a Leamington gentleman landed a salmon weighing 22½ lb., and had it conveyed to his hotel with the intention of dining on one half it. On the salmon being opened it was discovered he had gorged an eel, weighing about 1½ lb. The eel was dissected and a 1½ lb. trout was brought to light. The trout was cut open and inside were found eight minnows, making the total catch of ten fish. The search was not further pursued.

DRINKING-FOUNTAINS.—The Marquis of Westminster makes an appeal on behalf of the Drinking-Fountain and Cattle-Trough Association, of which he is the president. A circular issued by the association shows how wide and beneficent has been its working. In one day 4142 horses, it was found, drank at four troughs; and within the same short time 8000 persons are known to have drunk at one fountain. In hot weather like the present it is computed that 300,000 persons daily avail themselves of the water supplied to them. The association has erected, keeps in repair, and supplies with water 160 troughs and 144 fountains. It is supported solely by voluntary subscriptions; and as the supply of water to a single trough sometimes costs £20 in the year, it will be seen that the funds required for its operations by the association are considerable.

A MAD PARSON.—Canon Selwyn, brother of the Bishop Lichfield, has given notice to the Lord President of the Council of his intention to move for a mandamus to show cause why a petition of his to the Queen in Council shall not be presented. The petition prays her Majesty to allow him to be heard as to whether her assent to the Irish Church Disestablishment Act was not *ultra vires*. The Canon, who is one of the Queen's Chaplains, contends that the act of her Majesty was a stretch of the Royal prerogative, and that the proceedings in Parliament in reference to the disestablishment of the Irish Church are a dead letter. On the last day of the spring sitting of the Lower House of Convocation the Canon delivered a learned speech, in which he warmly announced his intention of testing the question to the uttermost, even if he stood alone; and he narrated the communications he had had with the Home Secretary and others in order to get the petition in question presented. The case will probably come on in the Queen's Bench soon after the long vacation.

OUR GUN-COTTON.

(From the "Times.")

We use the possessive pronoun in order to draw a marked distinction between the article lately adopted in our military service and the crude, treacherous, and comparatively expensive substance invented in 1846 by Schönbein, and subsequently introduced, with improvements, into the Austrian service at the recommendation of Baron von Lenk. "Give a dog a bad name, and hang him," is an adage peculiarly applicable to gun-cotton. The first attempts to practically utilise the philosophical researches of Professors Schönbein and Böttcher were attended with such disastrous consequences in this and other countries that gun-cotton was ultimately condemned as a thoroughly treacherous and highly dangerous compound, fit only for the chemist's laboratory or the specimen bottle of the lecturer.

It is unnecessary for us to recapitulate here the chapter of accidents which preceded the abandonment of all further manufacture of gun-cotton in this country. We have already, in a former article, noticed several of these sad incidents of history, and our readers may gain further information by referring to an able paper on the subject by Lieutenant-Colonel F. Miller, V.C., R.A., published at page 65 of the fourth volume of the *Proceedings of the Royal Artillery Institution* (1865).

We may say that in 1847-8 gun-cotton was given up and condemned in all countries but one. Austria still clung to the idea of the German chemists, and to Austria belongs the credit of pushing forward all practical inquiry with respect to gun-cotton up to 1862, when the subject was revived in this country by the Royal Society.

The subsequent history may be briefly told. A special committee was appointed to examine into the applicability of gun-cotton to military purposes and to mining and other engineering operations. After a series of promising experiments this committee was rather suddenly dissolved. It was rumoured at the time that its elements, being antagonistic, would not bind, and the prosecution of the inquiry was handed over to the Ordnance Select and Royal Engineer Committees. Meanwhile, Mr. Abel, the chemist of the War Department, had been actively engaged in investigating the properties of gun-cotton when prepared under varying conditions, and it is to him we owe the perfection of the present manufacture. Mr. Abel's preliminary researches were embodied in two elaborate contributions, published in 1866-7 in the *Transactions of the Royal Society*, to which a third, on the history of explosive agents, was added in 1869.

The main results arrived at by the special committee previous to its dissolution may be stated as follows:—

First, it was proved that gun-cotton, as made by the Austrian or Von Lenk process, is, with proper precautions, decidedly superior to gunpowder in blasting operations, but is inferior to it as a propelling agent in either small arms or artillery, both on the score of danger to the gun and loss of accuracy in the shooting. Secondly, it was shown that the full explosive power of the Von Lenk material could not be developed in either land or submarine mining without confining the cotton in a strong vessel previous to its ignition. In the Austrian process the cotton is made into skeins, which, after the usual treatment with acid, &c., are made up into convenient forms. Artillery cartridges have been made by winding the cotton round hollow cones of wood, for the bursting charges of shells, and for use in small-arms the cotton has been woven into a continuous hollow cylinder; for mining purposes it has been twisted into a hollow rope. It is apparent that the fibre of the cotton is more or less long and loose in all these forms, and herein lies the principal defect of the Austrian method.

The most searching purification cannot altogether get rid of impurities, and finished gun-cotton is thus liable to change and to decomposition. Spontaneous explosions follow, and a Coroner's jury brings in a verdict that "no evidence appeared how the explosion arose." The loose and porous condition of inferior cotton likewise tends to very rapid inflammation. If a loose mass of gun-cotton wool be inflamed in the open air by ordinary contact with heat, it will flash into flame with a dull explosion. If the same cotton be in the form of a woven fabric, the rapidity of the inflammation will not be so instantaneous; but if the escape of the gases from burning gun-cotton rope or yarn be retarded by inclosing the material in a wooden box, it will explode violently if ignited by the ordinary application of heat. A store of this gun-cotton would thus, if accidentally fired, explode with possibly disastrous consequences. The principal object of Mr. Abel's investigations was to set aside this defect in the Austrian process, and we shall presently show how promising have been his labours in this direction. In 1865 Mr. Abel devised a new method of manufacturing gun-cotton. This consisted in reducing the gun-cotton to the form of very fine pulp, and subsequently pressing this pulp into solid cakes or converting it into grains or pellets; and this is the process followed at Messrs. Prentice's works at Stowmarket, and about to be adopted in the Government factory now in course of erection at Waltham Abbey.

The advantages gained by the Abel process, in comparison with that of Von Lenk, are very marked. With the latter a long-staple expensive cotton must be employed, while ordinary cotton waste can be used in the Abel process. The operations incident to the Lenk process extended over a period of four weeks; Abel's gun-cotton can be manufactured in four days.

We have already referred to the practical impossibility of thorough purification by the Austrian method. During Abel's process the fibre is reduced to such minute particles that the retention of impurities is reduced to a minimum, and the finished gun-cotton should thus be perfectly stable, even in tropical climates. The conversion of Austrian gun-cotton into woven fabrics or twisted rope is more or less dangerous, owing to the necessity of working with dry material. With the Abel process absolute safety is secured during the whole manufacture, as the material is in the wet state throughout, and could thus be stored damp if so required.

This necessity, however, did not appear to exist, as experiments had shown that the compressed gun-cotton if inflamed, even when packed in wooden cases, does not explode; it merely burns rapidly. This was looked upon as one of the most marked features in the differences which exist between the two processes. A store of Austrian gun-cotton if accidentally ignited would explode with violence, whereas, under similar circumstances, a storehouse of Abel's compressed gun-cotton, judging from the result of experiment, would merely burn like any other building.

Lastly, in order to develop the full force of the Austrian cotton as an explosive agent, it is necessary to confine it either in strong vessels or by secure tamping. The compressed gun-cotton may, on the other hand, be made to exert its full destructive force without any confinement whatever. When employed in the demolition of buildings, it is only necessary to lay it in a heap on the basement floor; when used in torpedoes the surrounding case need only be of a strength sufficient to resist the pressure of the water at whatever depth the torpedo lies. This is an immense advantage, and is due to a remarkable property possessed by gun-pulp in the compressed state.

Experiments have shown that Abel's gun-cotton, when placed in the open air or packed in ordinary wooden cases, can only be exploded in one way—namely, by detonation; that is to say, by a fuze containing a certain quantity of fulminate. When ignited in this manner the compressed cotton detonates violently, completely shattering the substances with which it is in contact. Austrian gun-cotton will not detonate. If a tube or fuze of mercuric fulminate be buried in gun-cotton which is in the form of wool or spun yarn, it explosion does not develop the same violent action as if the cotton were in the form of a compact homogeneous mass such as it presents in the compressed state. Gun-cotton wool does not even detonate when placed in contact with a compressed charge of gun-cotton which does detonate.

The difference in the behaviour of such explosive substances as nitro-glycerine and its compounds and gun-cotton when exposed

to the influence of a source of heat has been made the subject of careful investigation by many distinguished chemists in this and other countries. M. Nobel has shown that crude nitro-glycerine can be detonated by contact with a small charge of confined gun-powder or by a large percussion-cup.

It occurred to Mr. E. O. Brown, Assistant Chemist of the War Department, that gun-cotton might also be ignited and exploded by detonation. Experiment proved this to be the case when the particles of the cotton were in a finely-divided state, and when its mass had been subjected to powerful pressure. Further trials, however, showed that gun-cotton is not nearly so sensitive or so susceptible to detonation as nitro-glycerine. The detonation of compressed gun-cotton cannot be accomplished by the explosion of ordinary fulminates. Nitro-glycerine can even be detonated in contact with compressed gun-cotton without exploding the latter. An electric fuze charged with one hundred grains of a mixture of sulphide of antimony and chlorate of potash has been fired on a disc of compressed gun-cotton without causing any explosion. The gun-cotton merely ignited and burnt away. A bottle containing three quarters of an ounce of pure nitro-glycerine has been detonated at the top of a disc of compressed gun-cotton without exploding the latter. The gun-cotton in this case was scattered by the violence of the explosion, and fragments of it inflamed. A detonating fuze containing ten grains of mercuric fulminate failed to explode a hank of gun-cotton-thread, while half that amount of fulminate was sufficient to cause compressed gun-cotton to detonate violently.

These experiments support the views held by Mr. Abel:—

1. That gun-cotton, freely exposed, cannot be detonated by any explosive agent less sudden and violent in its action than mercuric fulminate.
2. That nitro-glycerine, which is more readily exploded by a blow than gun-cotton, may be detonated through the agency of explosive mixtures far less violent and sudden in their action than fulminate of mercury.
3. That the mechanical condition of the gun-cotton most materially influences the result, and that a considerable compactness, or density, and a consequently great resistance to motion of the particles, is essential for the detonation of gun-cotton.

To what, then, is this remarkable action due? How comes it that the same substance is susceptible of a totally different metamorphosis into its gaseous products according to the manner in which fire is applied? Is it that the violence of explosion is proportionate to the amount of heat evolved in the disturbance of the chemical equilibrium of the particular substance used as a detonator? Is it due to the facility offered for the passage of heat throughout the mass of material acted on? Is it owing to the suddenness or sharpness with which the detonating substance acts? Experiment does not support any one of these views. There is far more heat evolved in the combustion of 100 grains of sulphide of antimony and chlorate of potash than in the explosion of ten grains of mercuric fulminate; the latter, however, invariably detonates compressed gun-cotton, while the former fails to do so. It is impossible to detonate loose porous gun-cotton, so that the action cannot be due to the facility with which heat can permeate the mass. Both iodide and chloride of nitrogen, even in comparatively large charges, fail to detonate gun-cotton; yet the explosion of these substances is certainly far more sudden than mercuric fulminate. We must accordingly look elsewhere for an explanation of this extraordinary phenomenon, and recent experiments appear to favour the theory advanced by Mr. Abel that the relative power of different explosive agents to accomplish the detonation of gun-cotton appears to be in direct proportion to the mechanical effects of their explosion; in other words, to the blow they are capable of inflicting on whatever body they may be in contact with.

When iodide and chloride of nitrogen are fired on a thin sheet of copper, the indentation produced by the explosion is not nearly so marked as in the case of the mercury or silver fulminates. The indent produced by the former is not nearly so deep or sharply defined; indeed, a charge of two grains of chloride of nitrogen has been exploded on a watch glass without fracturing it, whereas half that amount of silver fulminate was sufficient to shatter the glass to atoms. The mechanical effect of mercuric fulminate is much enhanced by confinement in a strong case, such as a tin tube, and under such conditions the violence of its action, as measured by work done, is in excess of either of the nitrogen compounds.

This may probably account for the fact that, although more instantaneous in its action, iodide of nitrogen fails to detonate gun-cotton even in a charge twenty times greater than the usual charge of mercuric fulminate. Possibly further investigation may throw more light on this remarkable explosive property. There may yet be some hidden peculiarity in the concussion or powerful vibration produced by some substances distinct from the mechanical force due to their explosion. There appears to be a species of *entente cordiale* between explosives of a certain class. They have a strange undefined sympathy with one another. If one goes off, all the others in the immediate neighbourhood seem instantaneously to be *en rapport*. As the synchronous vibrations of a tuning-fork are taken up by other instruments, so the molecules of various explosives pulsate in unison. Thus bodies in a state of high chemical tension may more readily yield to the influence of detonation, or, at any rate, may prove more susceptible to the operation of mechanical force chemically applied.

ENCOUNTER WITH A BEAR.—Early on the morning of the 8th inst. a young shepherd, fourteen years old, was engaged in tending his flock on a hill known as "the Monte di Campo," in the canton Grisons, when a bear suddenly made his appearance and seized two of the finest of his sheep. The courageous little fellow attempted to drive the bear away by hitting him heavy blows on the head with his stick; but the bear turned upon him, and he was obliged, though reluctantly, to run down the hill, pursued by the now infuriated animal. Happily, however, he did not lose his presence of mind, as the sequel will show. The bear was gaining ground upon him rapidly, and the lad already, in anticipation, felt his deadly hug, when he remembered that there was a narrow ravine, some 300 ft. deep, close by, which he thought he could leap, while he hoped the bear would not notice it, and, rushing after him, would fall to the bottom. Half wild with excitement and dread, for the bear was now within a few feet of him, the brave boy at length reached the edge of the ravine, which was upwards of six feet wide, and, animated by despair, made the fearful leap, and succeeded in landing in safety on the other side. The bear, however, never saw the danger, and, rushing on blindly in pursuit, fell to the bottom, where, bruised and bleeding and unable to rise, the shepherd laid found him; and, having no weapon with him, succeeded in killing the animal by dashing out his brains with heavy stones.—*Swiss Times*.

THE NATIONAL REFORM UNION.—A special meeting of the executive and members of the National Reform Union was held, on Tuesday evening, at the offices of the union, Manchester, to take into consideration the action of the Lords with reference to the Ballot Bill—Councillor Booth in the chair. A letter was read from Sir Thomas Bazley, M.P., approving the object of the meeting. In the course of it he says: "It has been plainly evident for a considerable time that the Conservative and obstructive members of the House of Commons have been designedly delaying the passing of the bill in order that the Lords might have a plausible excuse for rejecting it. No action of the meeting can avail for this Session to remedy the mischief," but he suggests that such meetings over the country may have useful influence next Session. Resolutions were passed that, "in the opinion of this meeting, the best thanks of the Liberal party throughout the country are due to the Government for the earnest and untiring efforts they have put forth to secure the passing of the great measures promised in the speech of her Majesty at the opening of the present Session of Parliament; that this meeting heartily congratulates the nation on the conclusion of the Anglo-American Treaty, by which two most powerful nations have shown to the world that questions vitally affecting the honour and integrity of each can be settled without an appeal to arms; and that this meeting, viewing the unceremonious manner in which the House of Lords have thought fit to reject the Ballot Bill—a measure which has been the question of the Liberal party for the last forty years—on which the mind of the nation has long been made up, and on which her Majesty's Government have staked their existence, is of opinion that the time has arrived when the privileges and prerogative of the House of Lords should be inquired into and defined, so that the two Houses of the Legislature may no longer be placed periodically in violent antagonism to each other, and the three estates of the realm—the Queen, Lords, and Commons—by wise and constitutional changes being brought into harmonious action for future legislation."

THE COURT-MARTIAL ON COMMUNISTS AT VERSAILLES.

THE constitution, arrangements, and general appearance of the court-martial for the trial of the Communist leaders at Versailles were fully described in our last Number. Instead of repeating that description in connection with the accompanying Engraving, it will be more interesting to give some account of subsequent proceedings as these are contained in the following letter from the correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*:-

"Neither apathetic nor over-excited, but naively curious and a little puzzled, has been the general attitude of the spectators at the Communal trials during the first week. On the opening day there was scarcely anybody present. The papers had announced so often that the trial was irrevocably fixed for this or that wrong date that people had ceased to believe or to care much about it. On Tuesday most persons probably made the calculation that, as the court had been empty on the first day, it would be crowded to suffocation on the second, so that again there was plenty of elbow-room. It was only on Thursday that the rush for places definitely began; and one is bound to remark that most of the people who then rushed would have done as well, for decency's sake, to stay away. Mdlle. Celletti and Mdlle. Celletti, of the Quartier Breda, have been mustering in great force; also wives of representatives, with their children, their fans, and their opera-glasses; excursion tourists from England, a very fair sprinkling of Prussian officers in mufti, and an all-glorious collection of persons who vow that their houses were burned down by the Commune, and that they themselves were ruined, which suggests the query as to how they can possibly afford to waste day after day of their time in looking on at a trial. One of the first things that strikes one on entering the court is the singular fairness of the presiding officer as compared with ordinary civil judges. I have seen both felons and journalists tried in France; and, although the felons got much the best of it so far as judicial fairplay was concerned, yet even they had to put up with a system of badgering which drove bystanders into wild sympathy with the accused, whoever he might be—burglar, coiner, or cut-throat. I have a particular recollection of a trial in which a prisoner arraigned for murder (he was subsequently acquitted), being baited out of all endurance, exclaimed at length, 'Upon my word, M. le Président, one would think you were going to earn a bonus by having my head cut off.' M. le Colonel Merlin, who presides over the Third Court, seems a soldier and a gentleman. His impartiality might not, perhaps, stand a test beside that of your Queen's Bench, but he evidently wishes to do his duty to the best of his lights; and it gives one a certain pleasure to see him pick his words in order that his questions may assume as inoffensive a form as possible. To be sure, he has every incentive to moderation in the conduct of the audience, which is outrageously biased. This is the first political trial in France since that of Charles X.'s Ministers in 1831 where the sympathies of the public have not been overwhelmingly in favour of the defendants; and really in this case the prisoners must be congratulated on pleading before a military jurisdiction; for, tried by a jury of Parisian householders, they would stand at the present moment no chance whatever. Your Parisian bourgeois is indulgent up to a certain point, but then he becomes ferocious. There is no twilight in his sentiments; they are either sunny or pitch dark. It is Colonel Merlin's daily mission, not as under the last reign, to suppress flattering murmurs addressed to the counsel for the defence, but to cry out that he shall clear the court if the audience exclaim 'Oh, oh!' and 'Ah, ah!' when the prisoners make a statement. These adverse manifestations generally begin in the afternoon. Up to luncheon hour everybody is tolerably mute and decorous. People do not seem altogether sure about the solidity of the prisoners' dock, and cast uneasy glances at M. Lullier, whose physiognomy is certainly against him. But when the half-hour's adjournment arrives and spectators have time to make the acquaintance of their next neighbours, while munching chocolate and sipping Malaga out of flasks, there is a universal loosening of tongues, which produces a frothy sort of agitation during the second part of the sitting. Your next neighbour is pretty sure to be one of those afflicted citizens above mentioned who have had their houses burned down. It is remarkable how abundant this race has become since May 24. Previously it was the 'besieged residents' who had made a sortie and captured a cannon who abounded. Everybody claimed to have captured a cannon; and now everybody protests that he bearded the Commune, was imprisoned, sentenced to death, only escaped by an ace, and has a clear right either to a monetary compensation or to the cross of honour. I have been favoured with this kind of summary at least a dozen times during the past week; and the only wonder is that the Commune should have lived a single day, seeing the number of valorous persons there were in open arms against it. Another interesting type is the actress 'who was forced to remain.' I could not help overhearing the conversation of one of these ladies, who was recounting with great volubility to a gentleman near me how she had received a visit from 'one of them with a red sash' just as all her boxes were packed and ready for starting. 'So we learn you are going to Versailles?' began that 'horreur d'homme,' with a bow. 'Yes,' I answered. 'Well, citoyenne,' said he, 'if you and all the other accomplished actresses fly Paris, the theatres will be obliged to close, and it will be said that we do not protect the arts, so you must remain.' 'But what if I don't?' 'Oh, but you will!' and I assure you by those simple words he made my blood run cold. 'And what came of it?' inquired the gentleman. 'Well, of course, I remained,' answered the actress, with a sigh, 'and I used to see "ce scelerat" come one or twice a week in the stalls and applaud me. Ah, le brigand! how I wished somebody would get up and shoot him. But nobody did, and every time I came out by the stage door I used to tremble all over, lest I should find a company of his soldiers waiting to arrest me. "Tenez, jamais je n'ai maigri comme dans ces six semaines là..."

"Of the demeanour of the prisoners there is little to be said. Doubtless, more than one of them might be saved if he would consent to speak civilly and give up being sarcastic at the expense of the Court. But you cannot change human nature; and a French defendant's nature is to shrug his shoulders, gesticulate, give the lie direct to the witnesses, and behave himself generally as if his sole aim were to exasperate the Judges. Another seemingly ineradicable propensity is to ogle the audience. The French defendant turns so naturally for encouragement to the benches where the public sit, that, when his sallies strike no echo there, his immediate impulse is to exclaim, as Urbain did the other day, 'Je renonce à me défendre devant un pareil public.' The most correct attitude as yet has been Assi's. Handsome, not undignified, and with a pleasing voice, he has had the merit of answering all questions straightforwardly. He has a knack of holding up his head and looking his interlocutor straight in the face while replying, which suggests the idea that he cares little which way the matter is settled. Whether this feeling be genuine or assumed is another matter. I have had the curiosity to inquire from more trustworthy sources than French newspapers what is the deportment of the prisoners when the day's trial is over, and I find that the man who keeps up his spirits best is precisely the one over whom the most convincing charges seem to hang—Ferre. The prisoners are allowed to read newspapers, and all avail themselves of the privilege; but it puzzles one at first to hear that the papers they prefer are not those which, like *Le Siècle* and *La Vérité*, show a tendency to take their part, but the *Figaro* and *Gaulois*, which avince a degree of animus that borders on cruelty. One may feel as bitterly as one pleases on the subject of the Communal doings; but the *Figaro* and *Gaulois* both overstep the limits of what is either fair or becoming when they comment, as they do, upon the evidence, and endeavour to close every door by which these unfortunate men may escape. M. Paschal Grousset, in his confinement, has given symptoms of repentance—he confesses himself regularly. M. Courbet passes his leisure hours in sketching; he appears to think that the most he can be sentenced to will be five

years' imprisonment, and in this he is probably not far wrong; for public opinion, always generous towards artists, has more than half forgiven him for his crusade against the Vendôme Column. Besides, it has been ascertained now that it was positively M. Courbet who saved the Louvre collection from being dispersed, and this would clearly entitle him to the indulgence which was extended to M. Beslay, who saved the Bank of France from being sacked."

SEEKING KNOWLEDGE IN THE SEA.

ON the day after the conclusion of the British Association meeting the members and associates had their usual opportunity of taking part in some of the various pleasure excursions into the surrounding neighbourhood. No less than six of such excursions were organised; and one of them, under the direction of Professor Wyville Thompson, went dredging in the Firth of Forth. Either from fear of sea-sickness, or from the greater attractions of land scenery, very few ladies joined themselves to the party; and the presence of more than one naturalist of European reputation assisted in giving an air of reality to the work that was to be done. The expedition proceeded by rail to North Berwick, where a steam-tug was in waiting to convey them to the Thane of Fife, a commodious passenger-steamer chartered for the occasion. The tug was then taken in tow by the larger steamer, and both proceeded to the offing to carry out the business of the day.

Beyond a general impression that the object of dredging is to bring into view some of the teeming life of the bottom of the sea, it is, perhaps, fair to assume that a large proportion of the public know very little about the nature of the operation. This much, at least, is certain, that some of the party saw a dredge for the first time; and it may therefore not be out of place to describe an implement which, during the last three or four years, has added enormously to the sum of human knowledge. A dredge may be roughly compared to a landing-net on rather a large scale, and intended to be dragged along the bottom of the sea. It is made oblong instead of circular, in order to give its lower edge a sufficient contact with the surface over which it is dragged. Various patterns are employed, differing in certain details, but alike in principle. That used on this occasion consisted of a rectangular iron frame, about 4 ft. long and 6 in. wide. On one side the edges of this frame were somewhat everted, while on the other side a net was affixed. Two iron bars, one attached to a cross piece near each end of the frames met in a common ring, to which a tow-rope was secured. When resting on the bottom, the dredge was dragged forward by the progress of the steamer, one edge or "lip" of the frame in contact with the bottom, so as to scrape up from the surface and then to retain in the net any forms of sub-aqueous life that were encountered.

Besides a number of such dredges the tug carried also a trawl, which is a net constructed on a similar principle, but of much greater dimensions, and calculated to retain flat fish and other larger denizens of the deep. Individual naturalists were also provided with muslin bags on cane hoops, intended to catch floating creatures, and a store of wide-mouthed bottles had been provided for the reception of living treasures of every kind. At the pier-side, before embarking, a few casts of a muslin bag were rewarded by two beautiful specimens of heroe, a tulip-shaped jelly-fish that floats mouth upwards, its delicate whiteness brought into relief by fine pink lines, along which rows of vibratile cilium keep up perpetual currents of water. There were also some small medusae darting about in the glass jar of sea water in which they were placed, and displaying to perfection the varying states of their coverings and tentacula. As soon as the two steamers were well under way a dredge was lowered from the Thane of Fife and the trawl from the tug, and the two soon after parted company, to meet again when the trawl was hauled up. The first cast of the dredge brought only a few crinoids, two sea-urchins, and two of the commonest (five-rayed) star-fish, and to this slender catalogue there were only a few subsequent additions, of which a thirteen-rayed star fish was the most important. The steamer made the circuit of the Bass Rock, startling with bell and whistle the thousands of sea fowl that live and breed on its inaccessible sides, and again joined company with the tug, to which most of the passengers then transferred themselves. The crew were already dragging in the trawl; and its multitudinous captives were soon struggling on the deck, and being pounced upon in all directions. Eager naturalists were hunting for marine rarities; and mere idlers were seeking to secure some eatable trophies of the expedition. Plaice and soles and skate, in only moderate quantity, were intermingled with numbers of smaller flat fish of various kinds; with cuttle-fish, ascidians, star fish, sea urchins, and the like. A marine electrical eel, and three fine specimens of the red or Norway lobster, were at once seized upon by collectors; and the wide-mouthed bottles were on all sides filled with treasures of lesser value, while the mere pot-sportsmen were busy stringing plaice into bunches after the fashion in which little boys carry home their evening's catch of dace upon rushes. The ladies of the party had mostly provided themselves with sponge bags, and were busy filling them with star fish, while, at the same time, they sought advice as to the manner in which their prizes could be preserved. In this way a very eager, happy, busy hour was spent, and then the time came at which the steamer must be steered for shore, where the return train to Edinburgh awaited the tourists.

What was thus done on a very small and imperfect scale, only as the amusement of an otherwise idle morning, has its interest as conveying some idea of the nature and objects of an expedition somewhat similar in kind which is about to be made a national undertaking. Attention has more than once been called to the results that have been obtained by the deep-sea dredging expeditions which have been carried on for short periods, at intervals, during the last three years, under the direction of Dr. Carpenter, Professor Wyville Thompson, and Mr. Gwyn Jeffries. These expeditions have been directed, not only to bring up the life of the deep sea, but also to test its composition and to measure its temperature and the force and direction of its currents. They have already produced results which are in many respects totally opposed to all previous conjecture. They have shown that the profoundest depths of the ocean, in which it was supposed that neither light nor life could exist, are inhabited by complex living organisms, possessing fully-developed eyes. They have shown that the deep-sea temperature, instead of being stationary at 39 deg., descends to just about the freezing-point; that this temperature is so controlled by currents that an Arctic and a temperate fauna may co-exist within a very short distance of each other; that the process of chalk formation is still being actively continued by countless myriads of globigerina; and that the differences in temperature and density between equatorial and polar water are sufficient to maintain a constant interchange of both, by which various deep and superficial currents may be explained, and by which the rigour of northern climates is perceptibly modified in certain places. The statements contained in these few sentences are sufficient to invalidate the data on which many conclusions about the periods of geological time and the nature of geological formations have been based; and they open out altogether new views with regard to many of the chief problems of biology. They rest, at present, upon observations neither sufficiently numerous nor made over a sufficiently extended area to be beyond the reach of doubt, and the influence of the Royal Society has induced the Admiralty to take up a similar line of research, with a view to its complete prosecution. For this purpose it is now announced that an expedition will be equipped next year, to be absent four years, and during that time to carry on deep-sea dredging and deep-sea temperature soundings in every part of the ocean from which it is thought that valuable knowledge may be gained.

THE RE-EVALUATION OF LANCASHIRE, now being made, is expected to show an increase upon the valuation of 1864 of at least £2,000,000. In Liverpool there will be the greatest increase, the difference in the two valuations being upwards of £300,000, arising chiefly from the property of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

THE LOUNGER.

At the end of last week it seemed impossible to get Parliament prorogued before the 24th. But on Monday night all the remaining supplies were voted. On Tuesday the House set steadily to work to push on the bills still on the paper. On Wednesday the paper was almost cleared, and now it seems to be settled that Parliament will be dismissed on Monday.

Mr. Speaker, in his evidence before the Committee on the business of the House, said that "the late hours which have got to be customary make that which ought to be an honourable occupation mere slavery." This was said in February last, and since then the House has sat, on the average, later than it ever did before. True, many years ago it would occasionally sit until five or even six in the morning, but such late hours were quite exceptional; the average sittings in those days were much shorter than they are now. The House then night after night rose long before midnight, and not unfrequently before dinner; but such early hours are extremely rare now. Obviously, something must be done to stop this practice, which in many ways is exceedingly mischievous. In the first place, it is ruinous to the health of her Majesty's Ministers. Then it makes good legislation impossible. To legislate well men's minds ought to be fresh and calm; but how can they be so at two or three in the morning? The thing is impossible. Besides, many of the best men will not stop so late, albeit bills which they specially understand and wish to discuss are upon the paper; and so the House often loses in the discussion of measures, many of them of vast importance, the assistance of its best minds. Then there is another manifest evil which has been very apparent this Session. At one o'clock the reporters shut their books, and much of our legislation is carried on, as we may say, in the dark. No publicity is given to it, and oftentimes amendments are introduced into bills seriously affecting public and private interests, which would be vigorously opposed at each successive stage, if said amendments had been published in the newspapers. This is really legislating with closed doors. On Tuesday morning, between the hours of three and four, when I looked into the House, there were only ten members present. Mr. Dodson was in the chair. The Attorney-General seemed to be conversing with him. I asked what was the business in hand, and found that Sir R. Collier was running through Committee one of the most important bills of the Session—to wit, "The Judicial Committee of Privy Council Bill." But after this six bills were advanced a stage and twenty-six votes in Supply reported, and it was not till four o'clock that the House adjourned. This legislating with closed doors will never do. Why, on this very day on which I am writing there came rushing down to the House with "winged haste," blowing like a gale, a friend of mine to get a bill which had passed the Commons altered in the Lords. The proceeding on this bill in Committee had not been reported in the papers, and he had by a mere accident discovered that an amendment of a most objectionable character had been inserted. In short, if we cannot have publicity and late hours, clearly we must give up late hours.

And so the Session is ended, and the Ministers are going into retirement. Well, let us hope they will "consider their ways," for they need to be seriously considered; for surely so many blunders were never committed by a Government since our Parliamentary Constitution was founded: indeed, when I look at the long catalogue of these mistakes I am amazed. They seem to have exercised all their ingenuity to invent means to make themselves unpopular. That Budget, for example. Was there ever such a foolish Budget? Then came the Army Bill. If they knew that the Queen, by a warrant, could abolish purchase, why, in the name of common-sense, did they not move the House to present an address to her Majesty praying her to issue her warrant? That would have been a course strictly constitutional. Mr. Goschen, by his Local Government Bill, which he never meant to carry in this Session, roused all the landlords and tenants. Mr. Bruce, by his preposterous Licensing Bill, which one moment's thought would have convinced him he could not carry, scared and alienated all the publicans, brewers, &c. By that stupid Pharmacy Bill all the chemists and druggists became alarmed and minatory; and then, lastly, though I have not exhausted the list, Mr. Lowe, no longer back then Monday, by a refusal to exempt agricultural horses which draw or carry their owners to church or chapel from a tax, sent all the Scotch members into the Opposition lobby. It is a trumpery affair—only a question of a few thousands; but Lowe was obstinate, and so the exemption was lost, but only by one vote. I am told that in Scotland, where farm horses are extensively used to carry or draw their owners and their families to kirk, this refusal will excite much anger.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A playgoer of moderately ecstatic nature must needs feel grateful to any manager bold enough to include "As You Like It," that sweet story of the Court and the forest, in his series of Shakespearean revivals. The love-making of Rosalind and Orlando is a joy for ever; and the humour of Touchstone, that quaintest of clowns, seems more healthy and enjoyable the more one hears of it. His wit mellow like old port, and "the satirical rogue" puts to shame all the feeble stage moralists of our enlightened time. Again, those who would take a lesson in the humanities of life need but listen to the noble speeches of the banished Duke. In them is contained the whole theory of charity, brotherly love, and good feeling that constitute the difference between a Christian and a heathen; and he who can listen unmoved may be a self-possessed man, but can scarcely be a good one.

I have seen many Rosalinds, from Helen Faucit downwards, and another name is now added to a catalogue as long as that of Don Giovanni's confiding victims. Miss Ada Cavendish, at present of the Gaiety, appeared in the character for the first time on Thursday week last, and contrasted very favourably with many Rosalinds gone before. She read the part well, and acted it very prettily; there was nothing great about the performance, but there was everything womanly, graceful, and expressive. Miss Cavendish had not previously been seen in any such superior line of business, and it is a pity the capability she has should have lain dormant so long. It is often argued that anyone able to play Rosalind has a very good chance of succeeding as Viola, in "Twelfth Night." Miss Cavendish may yet have an opportunity of illustrating this theory. Mr. Montgomery, as Orlando, played entirely into the hands of the lady. "Each one for himself" is necessarily the creed of actors, as of ordinary mortals; but on this occasion there was a chivalrous reserve and self-sacrifice on the part of Mr. Montgomery that merits emphatic acknowledgment. Mr. W. Rignold was the Jaques—not altogether the one I should imagine Shakespeare had in his mind's-eye. Mr. J. G. Taylor was out of place as Touchstone, but that was altogether his fault. Mr. J. Maclean I could hardly fancy querulous enough as Adam, and gave no very distinct idea of physical weakness. The Celia of Miss Kate Rivers was very good; also the Audrey of Mrs. F. B. Egan. Mr. W. McIntyre was the heaviest and most sepulchral of banished dukes. There were two or three playful little perversions of the text that could in nowise be considered improvements on the original.

On Tuesday last, the centenary of Sir Walter Scott, Mr. Montgomery was supposed to "attempt" the character of Meg Merrilies, a long way after a celebrated actress. If I mistake not, the versatile Montgomery has crowned over Harry Bertram before. I believe I have seen a benefit bill containing "The Lady of Lyons" and "Guy Rannering" in one evening, the characters of the gardener and the aged Ishmaelite by Mr. Montgomery. This is a strong impression, but capable of removal.

Monday night last saw the commencement of a new management at the CHARING-CROSS. Mr. Edward Hastings, the champion of unacted authors, assumes the responsibility; and it is somewhat remarkable that such a risk should be incurred when

gentle people are all out of town and when excessive heat drives the notion of theatre-going out of the heads of the vulgar million. Sir Charles L. Young's drama, entitled "Shadows," successfully produced a little time back at the Princess's, is the chief attraction. Mrs. Vezin and Mr. Coghlan have been engaged to play their original characters of Lady Inez and Beatrice, and Stephen and Martin Iredell. Mr. W. Rignold "doubles" as Ronald Fleming and confidant of Martin Iredell. A weak farce, "Our War Correspondent," written by Mr. J. Strachan, precedes the drama, and another slightly superior trifle concludes the entertainments. The less said of these specimens of dramatic composition the better.

The PRINCE OF WALES's is closed, and an unexpected announcement was made on Monday last that the HAY-MARKET would follow suit on Friday, and reopen in three weeks.

Mr. Arthur Skelley is the author of a new entertainment for the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION. It was brought out on Monday night, and, being acted, with uncommon spirit, met with a good reception. The title, "Near Relations," is suggestive. Sir John Marchmont (Mr. Arthur Cecil) is the victim of persevering and designing relatives, and a more finished study of character than Mr. Cecil's portrait of this ancient aristocrat has certainly not been seen of late years. At the Gallery of Illustration "doubles" been seen of late years. Besides appearing as the old gentleman in a gorgeous dressing-gown, Mr. Cecil personates Alfred Maybank, a young artist, and sings "a little song of his own composing," which is a mistake; Miss Fanny Holland, as Laura Mowbray, introduces a fashionable drawing-room song, called "Since yesterday," which is a still more grievous error. Mr. German Reed's characters are Mr. Tozer and Dr. Squills; and Mrs. German Reed, the mainstay of the company, plays an old Scotch housekeeper and an Irish lady of middle age and fascinating manners. The concerted music is by Mr. German Reed, and is entitled to very honourable mention.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES BUXTON, M.P.

MR. CHARLES BUXTON, M.P., died at the Lochearnhead Hotel, near Killin, Perthshire, on Thursday, Aug. 10. The hon. gentleman's health had failed for several months past, but alarming symptoms set in only a short time before his decease. Dr. Todd, of Killin, who attended the late member in his last moments, attributes his death to atrophy of the heart. Mr. Buxton was the third son of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart., of Belfield, Dorset, and Colne House, Norfolk, by a daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Gurney, of Earham Hall, in the latter county. He was born at Cromer Hall, in 1823, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was first class in the college examinations of 1842 and 1843. When he took his B.A. degree, two years afterwards, he was ninth in the second class of the classical tripos, and eleventh junior optime in mathematics. At the general election of 1857, when Lord Palmerston appealed to the country to support his policy with respect to China, Mr. Buxton, in conjunction with Captain C. E. Mangles, contested Newport, Isle of Wight, in the Liberal interest. He was successful, coming in second on the poll, only three votes behind Captain Mangles, while Mr. Kennard and Alderman Sir W. A. Rose were defeated. Two years afterwards, when Lord Derby was in power, and Parliament was dissolved after the defeat of the Government upon their Reform Bill, Mr. Buxton offered himself to the constituency of Maidstone, and was elected, polling with Mr. Lee an equal number of votes. He represented that borough six years, and in July, 1865, responding to a general and hearty expressed invitation from the Liberal electors of East Surrey, he became a candidate for that division. The struggle was one of great severity, but it ended in the return of Mr. Locke King, with 3495 votes, and of Mr. Buxton, with 3424. Mr. Peek, the first of the unsuccessful Tory competitors, mustering 3333, and the Hon. W. Brodrick (now Viscount Midleton), 3226. About three or four months after this election occurred the outbreak in Jamaica, with the attendant severities inflicted upon the black population by the island authorities. The prominent part taken by Mr. Buxton, as a member of the Jamaica Committee, in the prosecution of Mr. E. J. Eyre will be well remembered; and, as the controversy continued as long as the Parliament of 1865 lasted, it was not surprising that efforts should be made at the dissolution, by the more vehement of his opponents, to deprive him of the seat which he had so gallantly fought for and so worthily filled. The two gentlemen who came forward to contest the division against him and Mr. Locke King were Mr. Hardman, one of the deputy chairmen of the Surrey Sessions, and Mr. Lord. The fight was not so close as at the previous election; for, while Mr. Locke King, as the tried representative, of nearly thirty years' standing, came in at the head of the poll with 4162 votes, Mr. Buxton's supporters numbered 3941, or nearly 400 in excess of the foremost of the defeated Conservative candidates. From the first initiation of the volunteer movement, twelve years ago, he was one of its most active and thorough supporters, and he showed his practical interest in this national institution by doing duty as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Administrative Battalion Tower Hamlets Rifles. Mr. Buxton, who was a magistrate for the counties of Surrey and Norfolk, was married, in 1850, to Emily Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Holland, the eminent physician. Like the late Mr. Robert Hanbury, the member for Middlesex, he has been removed when it might fairly have been hoped that many years of usefulness were before him. The life which Mr. Buxton has written of his father, the well-known antagonist of the slave trade, the advocate of a reform in the penal code, and the personal friend of Wilberforce, has been widely read on both sides of the Atlantic. As a public man, Mr. Buxton was a staunch advocate of freedom, an unflinching opponent of every abuse, and a zealous worker in the cause of religious, educational, and social progress; as a country gentleman, his unostentatious kindness and unvarying liberality will be long remembered by all who came within the sphere of his influence.

A COMPLICATED CATCH.—The North Wales Chronicle treats its readers to a fine bold fisherman's adventure. Fishing at Llanrwst, so the story runs, a Leamington gentleman landed a salmon weighing 23 lb., and had it conveyed to his hotel with the intention of dining on one half it. On the salmon being opened it was discovered he had gorged an eel, weighing about 2 lb. The eel was dissected and a 14 lb. trout was brought to light. The trout was cut open and inside were found eight minnows, making the total catch of ten fish. The search was not further pursued.

DRINKING-FOUNTAINS.—The Marquis of Westminster makes an appeal on behalf of the Drinking-Fountain and Cattle-Trough Association, of which he is the president. A circular issued by the association shows how wide and beneficent has been its working. In one day 4142 horses, it was found, drank at four troughs; and within the same short time 8000 persons are known to have drunk at one fountain. In hot weather like the present it is computed that 300,000 persons daily avail themselves of the water supplied to them. The association has erected, keeps in repair, and supplies with water 160 troughs and 144 fountains. It is supported solely by voluntary subscriptions; and as the supply of water to a single trough sometimes costs £30 in the year, it will be seen that the funds required for its operations by the association are considerable.

A MAD PARSON.—Canon Selwyn, brother of the Bishop Lichfield, has given notice to the Lord President of the Council of his intention to move for a mandamus to show cause why a petition of his to the Queen in Council shall not be presented. The petition prays her Majesty to allow him to be heard as to whether her assent to the Irish Church Disestablishment Act was not *ultra vires*. The Canon, who is one of the Queen's Chaplains, contends that the act of her Majesty was a stretch of the Royal prerogative, and that the proceedings in Parliament in reference to the disestablishment of the Irish Church are a dead letter. On the last day of the spring sitting of the Lower House of Convocation the Canon delivered a learned speech, in which he warmly announced his intention of testing the question to the uttermost, even if he stood alone; and he narrated the communications he had had with the Home Secretary and others in order to get the petition in question presented. The case will probably come on in the Queen's Bench soon after the long vacation.

OUR GUN-COTTON.

(From the "Times.")

We use the possessive pronoun in order to draw a marked distinction between the article lately adopted in our military service and the crude, treacherous, and comparatively expensive substance invented in 1846 by Schönbein, and subsequently introduced, with improvements, into the Austrian service at the recommendation of Baron von Lenk. "Give a dog a bad name, and hang him," is an adage peculiarly applicable to gun-cotton. The first attempts to practically utilise the philosophical researches of Professors Schönbein and Böttcher were attended with such disastrous consequences in this and other countries that gun-cotton was ultimately condemned as a thoroughly treacherous and highly dangerous compound, fit only for the chemist's laboratory or the specimen bottle of the lecturer.

It is unnecessary for us to recapitulate here the chapter of accidents which preceded the abandonment of all further manufacture of gun-cotton in this country. We have already, in a former article, noticed several of these sad incidents of history, and our readers may gain further information by referring to an able paper on the subject by Lieutenant-Colonel F. Miller, V.C., R.A., published at page 65 of the fourth volume of the *Proceedings of the Royal Artillery Institution* (1865).

We may say that in 1847-8 gun-cotton was given up and condemned in all countries but one. Austria still clung to the idea of the German chemists, and to Austria belongs the credit of pushing forward all practical inquiry with respect to gun-cotton up to 1862, when the subject was revived in this country by the Royal Society.

The subsequent history may be briefly told. A special committee was appointed to examine into the applicability of gun-cotton to military purposes and to mining and other engineering operations. After a series of promising experiments this committee was rather suddenly dissolved. It was rumoured at the time that its elements, being antagonistic, would not bind, and the prosecution of the inquiry was handed over to the Ordnance Select and Royal Engineer Committees. Meanwhile, Mr. Abel, the chemist of the War Department, had been actively engaged in investigating the properties of gun-cotton when prepared under varying conditions, and it is to him we owe the perfection of the present manufacture. Mr. Abel's preliminary researches were embodied in two elaborate contributions, published in 1866-7 in the *Transactions of the Royal Society*, to which a third, on the history of explosive agents, was added in 1869.

The main results arrived at by the special committee previous to its dissolution may be stated as follows:—

First, it was proved that gun-cotton, as made by the Austrian or Von Lenk process, is, with proper precautions, decidedly superior to gunpowder in blasting operations, but is inferior to it as a propelling agent in either small arms or artillery, both on the score of danger to the gun and loss of accuracy in the shooting. Secondly, it was shown that the full explosive power of the Von Lenk material could not be developed in either land or submarine mining without confining the cotton in a strong vessel previous to its ignition. In the Austrian process the cotton is made into skeins, which, after the usual treatment with acid, &c., are made up into convenient forms. Artillery cartridges have been made by winding the cotton round hollow cones of wood, for the bursting charges of shells, and for use in small-arms the cotton has been woven into a continuous hollow cylinder; for mining purposes it has been twisted into a hollow rope. It is apparent that the fibre of the cotton is more or less long and loose in all these forms, and herein lies the principal defect of the Austrian method.

The most searching purification cannot altogether get rid of impurities, and finished gun-cotton is thus liable to change and to decomposition. Spontaneous explosions follow, and a Coroner's jury brings in a verdict that "no evidence appeared how the explosion arose." The loose and porous condition of inferior cotton likewise tends to very rapid inflammation. If a loose mass of gun-cotton wool be inflamed in the open air by ordinary contact with heat, it will flash into flame with a dull explosion. If the same cotton be in the form of a woven fabric, the rapidity of the inflammation will not be so instantaneous; but if the escape of the gases from burning gun-cotton rope or yarn be retarded by inclosing the material in a wooden box, it will explode violently if ignited by the ordinary application of heat. A store of this gun-cotton would thus, if accidentally fired, explode with possibly disastrous consequences. The principal object of Mr. Abel's investigations was to set aside this defect in the Austrian process, and we shall presently show how promising have been his labours in this direction. In 1865 Mr. Abel devised a new method of manufacturing gun-cotton. This consisted in reducing the gun-cotton to the form of very fine pulp, and subsequently pressing this pulp into solid cakes or converting it into grains or pellets; and this is the process followed at Messrs. Frölich's works at Stowmarket, and about to be adopted in the Government factory now in course of erection at Waltham Abbey.

The advantages gained by the Abel process, in comparison with that of Von Lenk, are very marked. With the latter a long-staple expensive cotton must be employed, while ordinary cotton waste can be used in the Abel process. The operations incident to the Lenk process extended over a period of four weeks; Abel's gun-cotton can be manufactured in four days.

We have already referred to the practical impossibility of thorough purification by the Austrian method. During Abel's process the fibre is reduced to such minute particles that the retention of impurities is reduced to a minimum, and the finished gun-cotton should thus be perfectly stable, even in tropical climates. The conversion of Austrian gun-cotton into woven fabrics or twisted rope is more or less dangerous, owing to the necessity of working with *dry* material. With the Abel process absolute safety is secured during the whole manufacture, as the material is in the *wet* state throughout, and could thus be stored damp if so required.

This necessity, however, did not appear to exist, as experiments had shown that the compressed gun-cotton if inflamed, even when packed in wooden cases, does not explode; it merely burns rapidly. This was looked upon as one of the most marked features in the differences which exist between the two processes. A store of Austrian gun-cotton if accidentally ignited would explode with violence, whereas, under similar circumstances, a storehouse of Abel's compressed gun-cotton, judging from the result of experiment, would merely burn like any other building.

Lastly, in order to develop the full force of the Austrian cotton as an explosive agent, it is necessary to confine it either in strong vessels or by secure tamping. The compressed gun-cotton may, on the other hand, be made to exert its full destructive force without any confinement whatever. When employed in the demolition of buildings, it is only necessary to lay it in a heap on the basement floor; when used in torpedoes the surrounding case need only be of a strength sufficient to resist the pressure of the water at whatever depth the torpedo lies. This is an immense advantage, and is due to a remarkable property possessed by gun-pulp in the compressed state.

Experiments have shown that Abel's gun-cotton, when placed in the open air or packed in ordinary wooden cases, can only be exploded in one way—namely, by detonation; that is to say, by a fuse containing a certain quantity of fulminate. When ignited in this manner the compressed cotton detonates violently, completely shattering the substances with which it is in contact. Austrian gun-cotton will not detonate. If a tube or fuse of mercuric fulminate be buried in gun-cotton which is in the form of wool or spun yarn, it explosion does not develop the same violent action as if the cotton were in the form of a compact homogeneous mass such as it presents in the compressed state. Gun-cotton wool does not even detonate when placed in contact with a compressed charge of gun-cotton which does detonate.

The difference in the behaviour of such explosive substances as nitro-glycerine and its compounds and gun-cotton when exposed

to the influence of a source of heat has been made the subject of careful investigation by many distinguished chemists in this and other countries. M. Nobel has shown that crude nitro-glycerine can be detonated by contact with a small charge of confined gun-powder or by a large percussion-cup.

It occurred to Mr. E. O. Brown, Assistant Chemist of the War Department, that gun-cotton might also be ignited and exploded by detonation. Experiment proved this to be the case when the particles of the cotton were in a finely-divided state, and when its mass had been subjected to powerful pressure. Further trials, however, showed that gun-cotton is not nearly so sensitive or so susceptible to detonation as nitro-glycerine. The detonation of compressed gun-cotton cannot be accomplished by the explosion of ordinary fulminates. Nitro-glycerine can even be detonated in contact with compressed gun-cotton without exploding the latter. An electric fuse charged with one hundred grains of a mixture of sulphide of antimony and chlorate of potash has been fired on a disc of compressed gun-cotton without causing any explosion. The gun-cotton merely ignited and burnt away. A bottle containing three quarters of an ounce of pure nitro-glycerine has been detonated at the top of a disc of compressed gun-cotton without exploding the latter. The gun-cotton in this case was scattered by the violence of the explosion, and fragments of it inflamed. A detonating fuse containing ten grains of mercuric fulminate failed to explode a hank of gun-cotton-thread, while half that amount of fulminate was sufficient to cause compressed gun-cotton to detonate violently.

These experiments support the views held by Mr. Abel:—

1. That gun-cotton, freely exposed, cannot be detonated by any explosive agent less sudden and violent in its action than mercuric fulminate.
2. That nitro-glycerine, which is more readily exploded by a blow than gun-cotton, may be detonated through the agency of explosive mixtures far less violent and sudden in their action than fulminate of mercury.
3. That the mechanical condition of the gun-cotton most materially influences the result, and that a considerable compactness, or density, and a consequently great resistance to motion of the particles, is essential for the detonation of gun-cotton.

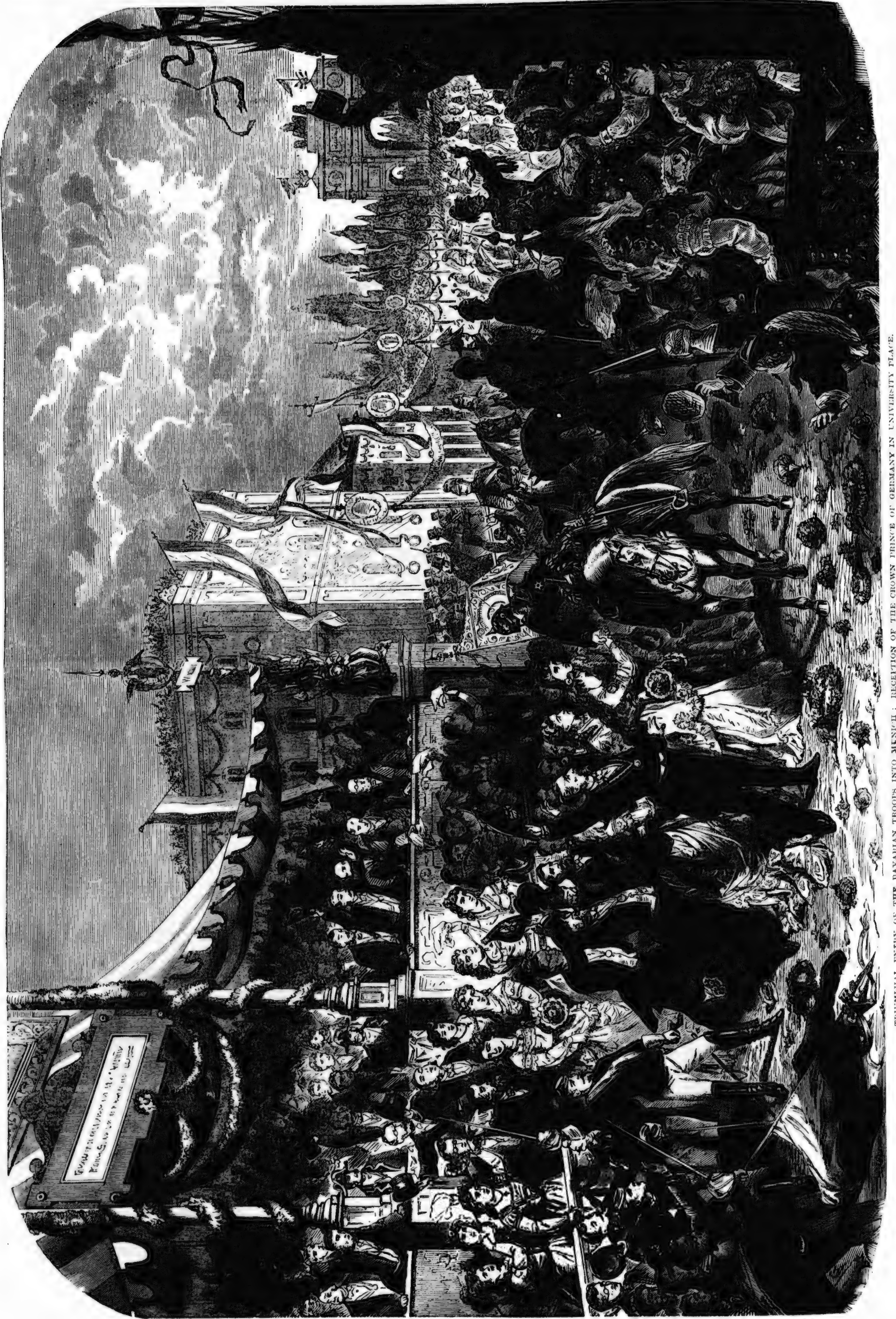
To what, then, is this remarkable action due? How comes it that the same substance is susceptible of a totally different metamorphosis into its gaseous products according to the manner in which fire is applied? Is it that the violence of explosion is proportionate to the amount of heat evolved in the disturbance of the chemical equilibrium of the particular substance used as a detonator? Is it due to the facility offered for the passage of heat throughout the mass of material acted on? Is it owing to the suddenness or sharpness with which the detonating substance acts? Experiment does not support any one of these views. There is far more heat evolved in the combustion of 100 grains of sulphide of antimony and chlorate of potash than in the explosion of ten grains of mercuric fulminate; the latter, however, invariably detonates compressed gun-cotton, while the former fails to do so. It is impossible to detonate loose porous gun-cotton, so that the action cannot be due to the facility with which heat can permeate the mass. Both iodide and chloride of nitrogen, even in comparatively large charges, fail to detonate gun-cotton; yet the explosion of these substances is certainly far more sudden than mercuric fulminate. We must accordingly look elsewhere for an explanation of this extraordinary phenomenon, and recent experiments appear to favour the theory advanced by Mr. Abel that the relative power of different explosive agents to accomplish the detonation of gun-cotton appears to be in direct proportion to the mechanical effects of their explosion; in other words, to the blow they are capable of inflicting on whatever body they may be in contact with.

When iodide and chloride of nitrogen are fired on a thin sheet of copper, the indentation produced by the explosion is not nearly so marked as in the case of the mercury or silver fulminates. The indent produced by the former is not nearly so deep or sharply defined; indeed, a charge of two grains of chloride of nitrogen has been exploded on a watch glass without fracturing it, whereas half that amount of silver fulminate was sufficient to shatter the glass to atoms. The mechanical effect of mercuric fulminate is much enhanced by confinement in a strong case, such as a tin tube, and under such conditions the violence of its action, as measured by work done, is in excess of either of the nitrogen compounds.

This may probably account for the fact that, although more instantaneous in its action, iodide of nitrogen fails to detonate gun-cotton even in a charge twenty times greater than the usual charge of mercuric fulminate. Possibly further investigation may throw more light on this remarkable explosive property. There may yet be some hidden peculiarity in the concussion or powerful vibration produced by some substances distinct from the mechanical force due to their explosion. There appears to be a species of *entente cordiale* between explosives of a certain class. They have a strange undefined sympathy with one another. If one goes off, all the others in the immediate neighbourhood seem instantaneously to be *en rapport*. As the synchronous vibrations of a tuning-fork are taken up by other instruments, so the molecules of various explosives pulsate in unison. Thus bodies in a state of high chemical tension may more readily yield to the influence of detonation, or, at any rate, may prove more susceptible to the operation of mechanical force chemically applied.

ENCOUNTER WITH A BEAR.—Early on the morning of the 8th inst. a young shepherd, fourteen years old, was engaged in tending his flock on a hill known as "the Monte di Campo," in the canton Grisons, when a bear suddenly made his appearance and seized two of the finest of his sheep. The courageous little fellow attempted to drive the bear away by hitting him heavy blows on the head with his stick; but the bear turned upon him, and he was obliged, though reluctantly, to run down the hill, pursued by the now infuriated animal. Happily, however, he did not lose his presence of mind, as the sequel will show. The bear was gaining ground upon him rapidly, and the lad already, in anticipation, felt his deadly hug, when he remembered that there was a narrow ravine, some 300 ft. deep, close by, which he thought he could leap, while he hoped the bear would not notice it, and, rushing after him, would fall to the bottom. Half wild with excitement and dread, for the bear was now within a few feet of him, the brave boy at length reached the edge of the ravine, which was upwards of six feet wide, and, animated by despair, made the fearful leap, and succeeded in landing in safety on the other side. The bear, however, never saw the danger, and, rushing on blindly in pursuit, fell to the bottom, where, bruised and bleeding and unable to rise, the shepherd lad found him; and, having no weapon with him, succeeded in killing the animal by dashing out his brains with heavy stones.—*Swiss Times*.

THE NATIONAL REFORM UNION.—A special meeting of the executive and members of the National Reform Union was held, on Tuesday evening, at the offices of the union, Manchester, to take into consideration the action of the Lords with reference to the Ballot Bill—Councillor Booth in the chair. A letter was read from Sir Thomas Bazley, M.P., approving the object of the meeting. In the course of it he says: "It has been plainly evident for a considerable time that the Conservative and obstructive members of the House of Commons have been designedly delaying the passing of the bill in order that the Lords might have a plausible excuse for rejecting it. No action of the meeting can avail for this Session to remedy the mischief," but he suggests that such meetings over the country may have useful influence next Session. Resolutions were passed that, "in the opinion of this meeting, the best thanks of the Liberal party throughout the country are due to the Government for the earnest and untiring efforts they have put forth to secure the passing of the great measures promised in the Speech of her Majesty at the opening of the present Session of Parliament; that this meeting heartily congratulates the nation on the conclusion of the Anglo-American Treaty, by which two most powerful nations have shown to the world that questions vitally affecting the honour and integrity of each can be settled without an appeal to arms; and that this meeting, viewing the unceremonious manner in which the House of Lords have thought fit to reject the Ballot Bill—a measure which has been the question of the Liberal party for the last forty years—on which the mind of the nation has long been made up, and on which her Majesty's Government have staked their existence, is of opinion that the time has arrived when the privileges and prerogative of the House of Lords should be inquired into and defined, so that the two Houses of the Legislature may no longer be placed periodically in violent antagonism to each other and the three estates of the realm—the Queen, Lords, and Commons—by wise and constitutional changes being brought into harmonious action for future legislation."



TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF THE CROWN PRINCE OF GERMANY INTO MUNICH: RECEPTION OF THE CROWN PRINCE OF GERMANY IN UNIVERSITY PLACE.



THE WOODRANGER'S DAUGHTER.—(FROM A PICTURE BY PROFESSOR THOM.)

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO MUNICH.

We have already illustrated the entry of the victorious troops of Germany into Berlin and Dresden, and we now complete the series by publishing an Engraving depicting the entry of the Bavarians into Munich. This event took place on Sunday, July 16. The weather was fine, and the popular enthusiasm is said to have been indescribable. The Prince Imperial of Germany was present. After the parade held by the King, the Imperial Crown Prince, in the name of the Emperor, presented to General von der Tann and five officers of inferior rank the decoration of the Iron Cross of the first class. At the Siegesthor the Burgomaster (Erhardt) delivered an address to the King and the Crown Prince, and a bevy of young ladies presented garlands to the latter in University-platz. After the triumphal entry, a military banquet was given at the Residenz. The toast of "The Victorious Army and its Leaders," proposed by the King, was replied to by the Crown Prince in a long speech, which was received with general enthusiasm, at the conclusion of which he proposed the toast of "The King." On the appearance of the King and the Crown Prince at the theatre there was another ovation. At a reference in the prologue to the hopes which the empire placed in the Crown Prince, the King, standing up in presence of the audience, held out his right hand to the Crown Prince, when tumultuous applause filled the house. The illumination of the city was the most brilliant ever known in Munich: not one house remained unlighted. At half-past ten the Court and their illustrious guest, with an escort, passed through the city. On this occasion, as on all others, the appearance of the Crown Prince caused the utmost enthusiasm among the multitude, which had assembled from all parts of the country.

"THE WOODRANGER'S DAUGHTER."

SUCH is the title of Professor Thom's picture from which our Engraving is taken—a picture so full of suggestion that we should, but for the heat of the weather, have founded a whole sylvan romance upon it, with the dramatic element in full force; should have told how, in a sequestered glade of the forest, in a hut beyond the beaten track, lived a mysterious stranger, beneath whose rugged appearance and stern, almost repulsive, manner were to be observed indications of a noble nature and proofs of birth and education; how, shunning the society of his fellows, and unknown even at the wine-shop, he was seen in the company of charcoal-burners, and had gained the respect, almost the homage, of those rude freemen of the forest; how in his solitary home there was one being for whom he seemed to live, although even with her he was sometimes moody and stern; how he seemed to watch with anxious care every look and word of his only daughter; how his brow darkened at the sound of one name—the name of the landowner whose eldest son was so fond of shooting in the forest, and had more than once asked for a draught of water at his hut; how he was seen to grind his teeth when the young man's prowess was spoken of; how he one day saw upon the table a brooch of silver, with a line of writing signed with the youth's name, and asking his daughter—the pet bird for whom he had made that solitary forest cage—to accept it; how he fled at once into the depths of the wood to ruminate, and there, having almost instinctively brought down a deer with his unerring rifle, and taken out his hunting-knife, with a laugh to think how he was slaying the game, he starts, flushes, trembles at the sound of voices in low and earnest conversation. Ah! those tender accents! Ah! that soft, pleading tone—madness, rage, revenge, and yet—He half an outlaw already, he whom men know only as the Woodranger, while only a few suspect his history; he who while a wanderer found his heritage stolen from him by the crooked policy of legal craft, and another in the place that he should have occupied; that other this young man's father. And now, having stolen his estate, to want to steal his daughter too, the only thing that makes his blighted life of any worth! Ah! ah! Never! never! never! And so—well, let us say that he hears more distinctly; hears that noble young man pour out his tale of earnest suffering at having learned that the estate he thought to inherit was not honestly come by; that he is about to travel the world over to find the rightful owner; that before he tears himself away on this just errand he must say farewell; but that if ever he should succeed in discovering the lost heir, living, as he understands, under the name of Wilderer, he will come back; and then may he hope? If, indeed, he can but find that man—“Behold him here! Your hand! Yours too, my daughter! Bless you, my children! You have lost a father, dear youth; behold in me a second parent, and in this, my girl, a sister!” “Nay, Sir, say not so, but let me call her by a dearer name.” “As you will, then, children, as you will; but let me weep unseen,” &c. We commend the plot to our readers to fill up the details as they please.

THE CHOLERA.

MR. SIMON, Medical Officer of the Privy Council, has issued a circular containing precautions against cholera. He says that cholera is, happily, so little contagious in the sense in which smallpox and scarlatina are contagious, that if reasonable care be taken where it is present, there is scarcely any risk that the disease will spread to persons who nurse and otherwise closely attend upon the sick. But cholera has an infectiveness of its own. It is characteristic of cholera, and likewise of the diarrhoea produced by the prevailing epidemic, that all matters discharged from the stomach and bowels of the patient are infective, and that if they be left without disinfection after they are discharged, their infectiveness for some days grows stronger and stronger. In the event of any escape in the drain into which such discharges are cast, the well or water sources might be infected. He therefore recommends that all discharges should be disinfected before being thrown into the drain, and that all clothes, towels, or bedding in the least tainted should be carefully disinfected. He remarks that the main object for endeavour must be to secure such local circumstances that cholera-contagium, though not disinfected, shall be prevented from acting extensively on the population. He goes on to remark thus:—

“The dangers which have to be guarded against as favouring the spread of cholera-contagium are particularly two. First, and above all, there is the danger of water-supplies which are in any (even the slightest) degree tainted by house-refuse or other like kinds of filth; as where there is outflow, leakage or filtration, from sewers, house-drains, privies, cesspools, foul ditches, or the like, into streams, springs, wells, or reservoirs, from which the supply of water is drawn, or into the soil in which the wells are situated—a danger which may exist on a small scale (but, perhaps, often repeated in the same district) at the pump or dip-well of a private house; or, on a large and even vast scale, in the source of supply of public water-works. And, secondly, there is the danger of breathing air which is foul with effluvia from the same sorts of impurity. Immediate and searching examination of sources of water supply should be made in all cases where the source is in any degree open to the suspicion of impurity; and the water both from private and public sources should be examined. Where pollution is discovered, everything practicable should be done to prevent the pollution from continuing; or, if this object cannot be attained, to prevent the water from being drunk. Simultaneously, there should be immediate thorough removal of every sort of house refuse and other filth which has accumulated in neglected places; future accumulations of the same sort should be prevented; attention should be given to all defects of house drains and sinks through which offensive smells are let into houses; thorough washing and lime-washing of uncleanly premises, especially of such as are densely occupied, should be practised again and again. Disinfection should be very freely and very frequently employed in and round about houses, wherever there are receptacles or conduits of filth, wherever there is filth-sodden porous earth: wherever anything else, in, or under, or about the house, tends to make the atmosphere foul. In the absence of permanent safeguards, no

approach to security can be got without incessant cleansings and disinfections, or without extreme and constant vigilance against every possible contamination of drinking-water. It may fairly be believed that in considerable parts of the country conditions favourable to the spread of cholera are far less abundant than at former times of visitation; but it is certain that in very many places the conditions of security are wholly, or almost wholly, absent; and it is to be hoped that in all this large class of cases the authorities, under present circumstances, will do everything which in the remaining time can be done to justify the trust reposed in them by the legislation for the protection of the public health.”

THE SUPPLY OF COAL.

THAT a great superfluity of mental energy abounds in our country is proved by the well-known fact that able workmen are always found willing to labour diligently at any job for the mere love of it, and without fee or reward. When Government seek information they commonly seek volunteers. They issue a “Royal Commission,” under Royal sign manual. Loyal commissioners come at their Sovereign's call, and they work patriotically for their Queen and country till their job is ended, as if they expected a reward. Mental energy seems to be inexhaustible, for the supply always exceeds the demand.

It is not so with all commodities: it is not so with coal. Old caricatures used to show manufacturing towns changed into gardens, with ducks hatching on the tops of factory chimneys, after the exhaustion of our coal. Nothing came out of these old jokes; but after debates about the Commercial Treaty with France, in 1861, Mr. Hull published a work* which called attention to the fact that coal really is exhaustible, and may be exhausted sooner than we expect. He showed that our store of it can be measured and estimated geologically and practically, with some approach to exactitude, and that our future rate of consumption, if truly estimated, would give the date of the exhaustion of our coal. As coal now is our chief source of mechanical power, as it is used in almost every branch of productive industry, and as new uses are found for it continually, the question raised by Mr. Hull's book deserved attention. In 1863 Sir W. Armstrong publicly noticed the coal question in his address to the British Association as president. In 1865 Mr. Jevons treated it in an important work;† Mr. Mill took it up, the Press ventilated it, Mr. Gladstone mentioned it in his Budget speech, which was very serious, and no laughing matter at all; and so public attention was fairly roused at last by an appeal to the pocket. Everybody asked everybody if coal was coming to an end; and, if so, what ought to be done next. None could answer, and most consoled themselves by cheerfully remarking, “It will last my time, at all events;” or “What has prosperity done for me, that I should consider posterity and geology?” On June 12, 1866, Mr. Hussey Vivian moved for a Commission. His speech was afterwards published as a pamphlet. An Address embodying the words of Mr. Vivian's motion was agreed to, the Address was presented, and on June 28, 1866, her Majesty's autograph upon a Royal Commission embodied the words of the Address, and gave them life and power to set sixteen Commissioners to inquire into the facts, and to report upon the coal question generally. As is usual in this country, the Commissioners came to the front when called; and on July 27, 1871, after five years of energetic mental labour, the survivors of these volunteers who were well enough to attend their ninety-second meeting signed a report, which was presented on the 1st of this present August.

We learn from the report that the fruits of their labour are now stored in three volumes, containing diagrams, maps, and sections, woodcuts, and lithographs, of which some are to be published separately. Of these volumes the first contains the general report and twenty-two sub-reports, upon which it is founded; the proceedings of four committees and the evidence upon which their reports A, B, C, D are based, are in the second volume; E, the committee's report upon statistics, fills the third volume; and the following is the general result of the whole inquiry, as far as we are informed by the report.

The Commissioners had to find answers to six great questions, which may be shortly put:—

1. “What is the depth to which it is possible to follow coal?” To this they answer, “about 4000 ft., because of heat.” At 50 ft. below the surface the temperature is constant at 50 deg., winter and summer, so far as can be ascertained, in our country. Thence the rate of increase is pretty constant, and is 1 deg. for each 60 ft. in our coal mines. In the deepest English mine, at Rose Bridge, at 2419 ft. the temperature is 94 deg. At this rate, at 4000 ft. it will be about 105 deg. In the hottest English mine, which is in Cornwall, and is heated by a hot spring, the temperature is sometimes 123 deg., and the air is saturated. Men work there for short spells of fifteen minutes, and work only during three hours in twenty-four. It is manifest that coal would be dear if got from 4000 ft. under like conditions.

2. “What is the attainable quantity of coal in our known coal-fields?” Taking 4000 ft. as an attainable depth, they answer—90,207 millions of tons, after making all deductions.

3. “Is it probable that coal exists at workable depths under rocks newer than the coal measures?” Taking the same limit, making the same deductions, and reasoning upon geological data, they answer, “Yes;” and, further, they point out where coal may be sought with certainty, or with more or less probability of success. In the general report is a tabular estimate of quantities which may hereafter be made available, and the quantity returned is 56,273 millions of tons. The evidence upon which this estimate is founded, the details, and the maps, ought to interest residents in the districts named. Reporters further point to districts in which coal exists at depths greater than 4000 ft., and to areas within which it is probable that coal may hereafter be found. The whole amount returned as available is 146,480 millions of tons of coal at depths less than 4000 ft., allowing for all deductions, and 41,144 millions of tons between 4000 ft. and 10,000 ft., which may all become available when men have learnt to live and to work where water boils. Besides all these quantities, we may or we may not find more in the south of England; but meantime the Commissioners report that there are 146,480 millions of tons of available coal.

Many fondly imagine that coal grows underground. It does not grow there, and will not grow in a cellar. “Wilful waste makes woful want,” as the proverb has it. Every householder can understand that the coal in our national cellars will come to an end sooner or later, and that the end will come sooner if the coal is spoilt, or wasted, or used extravagantly.

1. If 100 sacks of coal are in the cellar, and one sackful is regularly burnt daily, the last sackful will be emptied on the hundredth day, by simple subtraction or by division.

2. If the coal is used up at a rate increasing extravagantly, and arithmetically by a fixed daily quantity of (say) one daily sack, thus—

Daily sacks—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Totals daily—1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 21, 28, 36, 45, 55, 66, 78, 91, 105—

then the store will not last out the fortnight.

3. If the rate increases recklessly, ruinously, and geometrically, thus—

Daily sacks—1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64

Totals daily—1, 3, 7, 15, 31, 63, 127—

then 100 sacks in store on Sunday will not last out the week.

More than three months, less than a fortnight, or less than a week, are notable differences in duration of coal available for use in a cellar.

4. If the rate be supposed to wax to extravagance and wane to parsimony, the 100 sacks need never end, for the last sackful may be halved for ever—1, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{16}$ th, $\frac{1}{32}$ nd, $\frac{1}{64}$ th, and so on. But in these later days pounds and half-pounds, pinches and half-

pinches of coal dust will make sorry fires, unless the extravagant household learn from the pinching of want to make their daily allowance of pinches do the work of the profuse old wasteful allowance of prosperous times.

These are simple sums, but applicable to all quantities; and, by simple sense, it is probable that our national coal cellars will be emptied upon some waxing and waning rate, as suggested by Mr. Hull ten years ago. In this sense coal is practically inexhaustible; but it must soon become dear if consumption continues to grow geometrically, as it has since 1855. The report shows what the rate of increase has been. In 1660 the coal produce was two millions of tons; in 1800, ten millions; in 1865, 64 millions; in 1869, 107 millions. In this year it will be about 115 millions. If the whole earth were coal, all available, and all our own, we should exhaust the supply in a short time by geometrical progression. Mr. Hull suggested short time; so did Mr. Jevons. The Commissioners state facts. But what is the mistress of this extravagant household to do? Thriftlessness brings ruin. Is she to publish truths which her loyal Royal Commissioners humbly present to her, and leave posterity to learn economy from ancestral waste, or is she to set the rulers of her house to contrive regulations for the coal-cellars down below and the fires up stairs? The real coal question, as anyone can now easily understand, is, can any reform follow the Report of the Coal Commission, or is it all to end in waste of mental energy and smoke?

4. Is coal wasted in working? The Commissioners answer, “It is.” In some mines ten tons or less are lost in getting, ninety or more out of the ground for use; but forty, sixty, or more are commonly wasted in getting sixty, or forty, or less out of a seam. Some seams are left where they will never be got at again. That is well known to all who are concerned in coal-mines. The Commissioners who reported on quantities generally allow 30 per cent for loss in estimating quantities available for use. If waste can be lessened, the available store will be increased by so much. It is notorious that coal is worked for profit, without the smallest regard for posterity. Is posterity to be considered or not?

5. Is coal wastefully used? The answer is, To a considerable extent, but not so much as formerly, when coal was profusely wasted. If this waste can be lessened, the value of our available store will be increased, and it will last all the longer, or do more useful work. Where all this waste exists there is room for reform. That is plain; but is it worth our while to reform, having all these millions?

6. Is the ascertained rate of consumption likely to increase? the answer is contained in a volume (3) of statistics, history, facts, and figures, and in an argument which will doubtless be taken up by political economists. Suppose that the rate will increase, then the present holders of the national coal-cellars—landowners, and their lessees, and their heirs—ought to consider whether their property is being used extravagantly, wastefully, or economically, so as to injure the next heirs or remainder men, for the sake of life tenants, or “how otherwise.” The coal question is a popular question for home consideration by prudent fathers, and for the public at large. That also is plain.

Having reported the quantity of coal available for use, the problem left for solution is—How long will it last? The Commissioners do not condescend upon rates and dates of their own, but they give rival calculations with their facts, and add a little prophetic political economy. Taking the rate of consumption chosen by Mr. Jevons, the coal now reported to be available will last 110 years.

Using an arithmetical rate of progression founded upon fact, it will last 277 years.

Taking a geometrical, diminishing, progressive rate founded upon Census returns, &c., it will last 360 years.

Dividing the sum by 115 millions of tons, which is about the consumption for the current year, it will last about 1300 years.

By other calculations we can get other results, but we cannot know futurity. There is ample room for speculation, argument, and calculation. But if the end is to be talk, argument is waste of time and energy. The quantity taken out of the coal-cellar day by day, or year by year, determines the time of scarcity and of emptiness, for this national coal store cannot be refilled. “It will last our time,” that is plain; but how about posterity, and what can be done?

That was and is the real coal question.

Whatever may turn out to be the truth as to the future rates of consumption and date of exhaustion, the Commissioners point out that England's “commercial supremacy” will begin to decline when it becomes cheaper to carry coal horizontally from abroad than to lift it from great depths in excessive heat at home. If our supremacy rests upon our coal, the conclusion is obvious. If we are undermining our foundations, we must bring the old house about our ears. But, as England's prosperity grew up long before coal was extensively used, patriots may argue that inexhaustible British mental and bodily energy are the true causes of British prosperity rather than exhaustible mechanical energy stored in coal. If so, it may be said that our commercial supremacy will survive till the breed degenerates. Be that as it may, the purport of the report of the Coal Commission is shortly this. They report a vast store of attainable mechanical energy stored up in the shape of available coal—enough, at any rate, for many years' consumption. They give answers to sums in division, tell a great deal about the past history of coal consumption, and leave the future to speculation, because they cannot do otherwise. Even Royal Commissioners cannot fathom these depths and see through millstones and millstone grits beyond the coal. They had the will, but they lacked the power to foresee the end of it. After about ten years, knowledge has been increased thus much by a great expenditure of the mental energy which has counted for more than black diamonds in the world's history, which set Mr. Hull to write about the coal question in 1861, and which has kept up the steam ever since. That is the substance of the report of the Coal Commission, which, together with twenty-two sub-reports, is published in the first of three volumes.—Times.

OFFICIAL ROBBERY IN NEW YORK.

New York, July 26.

SOME extraordinary disclosures of official robbery have just been made in New York. The local government of New York city has been for years in the hands of a clique commonly known as the “Tammany Ring.” Composed of the lowest sort of Democratic politicians, supported mainly by the votes (legal and illegal) of the Irish immigrants, and led by a set of political tricksters as disreputable as any democracy ever produced, it has been, perhaps, the worst blot upon the American scheme of representative government. Under it, while the administration of municipal affairs has been shockingly lax, taxes have steadily increased. The leaders of the Ring have grown rich. Their favourites have all prospered without discoverable cause. Hall, the Mayor, who originally combined in a humble way the professions of law and journalism; Tweed, the Commissioner of Public Works, who used to be a chairmaker; Peter B. Sweeney, the Chief of the Department of Parks; and Connolly, the Comptroller of the Finances, who is called by his enemies “Slippery Dick,” are the four men in whom all the power of the Ring is concentrated; who have not only made themselves the absolute rulers of the city, but, by their command of the Irish vote, have become formidable powers in national politics. Everybody knew that under their rule the city was plundered right and left, but the public accounts were so carefully concealed that nobody could tell exactly how the swindling was effected. It is two years or more since a full statement has been published of the municipal receipts and expenditure. The annual tax levy, passed by the State Legislature, appropriates a certain very liberal sum for the use of the city government, but the citizens have not been permitted to learn how this account was expended, or how many liabilities, incurred after the appropriations were exhausted, became chargeable to the bonded or floating debt of the Corporation. At last we have light

* “The Coal-fields of Great Britain.” London. 1861.

† “The Coal Question.” Macmillan. 1866.

upon these important points. The frauds of which we have long had moral assurance are now positively proved. The *New York Times* has procured (surprisingly) and published in prominent type copious extracts from Comptroller Connolly's books. It is understood that the much-desired copies were bought from a discharged clerk; but, however they were obtained, their authenticity is tacitly admitted, and the story they tell is amazing.

The frauds, so far as we now know, seem to have been principally in renting armouries for the use of the militia and repairing and furnishing the city and court buildings. The bills had to be approved by the Mayor and Comptroller, and, when there was no appropriation to meet them, were paid in bonds, which the Comptroller apparently issued at pleasure. The custom was to appoint an agent for the Ring, to whom the creditors of the city were forced to assign their claims. This agent then collected from the Mayor and Comptroller 200 or 300 per cent more than the legitimate claim, and the Ring divided the difference. An instance which has not been published, but which came under my personal knowledge, will illustrate the mode of operation. A carpenter was employed by the city to repair certain public buildings. He made out an honest bill, amounting to about 5000 dols., and presented it. A subordinate in the Comptroller's Office said to him, "Make out that bill for 7000 dols., and assign your claim to so-and-so, and you shall have your 5000 at once." He refused, and the consequence is that, after eighteen months' delay and infinite trouble and annoyance, he is still without his money, and without much prospect of ever getting it. The principal agent who appears in the public Bowery disclosures is one James H. Ingersoll, a lished chairmaker, formerly a partner of Tweed, and now one of the commissioners for constructing the new court-house. He manipulated most of the leases for the militia armouries, and collected the rents. These armouries are generally mere lofts, situated over stables, or in other places unsuitable for business, and are used by the militia as drill-rooms. Their rental value is almost always very small. Yet the city is charged with an annual rent of 281,000 dols. for twenty-five armouries, ten of which are not occupied at all, and one being a mere fiction of Mr. Ingersoll's brain. The annual value of the fourteen drill-rooms actually used is appraised at 46,600 dols. But the profit of 235,000 dols. a year on the rental is a mere bagatelle beside the sum cleared by keeping armouries in repair. During nine months of 1869-70 no less than 941,000 dols. were paid to Ingersoll and other agents for "repairs" to only ten armouries; the items, of course, never being given. It is utterly impossible that one tenth of that charge could have been justly incurred.

The discovery of these figures led to still more extraordinary disclosures. Between July, 1869, and August, 1870, Ingersoll received for "repairs and furniture" for the new and unfinished court-house and a few other buildings 5,663,646 dols.; and one Andrew Garvey, a plasterer and Tammany politician, 2,870,464 dols.; and the end is not yet. The new court-house upon which most of this money purports to have been spent has been for years a perfect gold-mine to the political plunderers. It has cost, thus far, to build it about twelve times its actual value; and the cost of supplying it with furniture, &c., already exceeds the cost of construction. Hundreds of people visit it every day, and it is notorious to all the city that there is nothing to show for the vast sums which have nominally been expended in fitting it up. On one occasion Mr. Garvey got 133,000 dollars for two days' work. Ingersoll, as the assignee of a carpenter named Miller, received during a part of two months 945,000 dols. Dates are confused in the most extraordinary manner. Whenever the Ring wanted money they seem to have taken any date at random, and made out bills for work ostensibly done at that time, without waiting to inquire whether it had already been covered by other accounts. Thirteen of the days thus selected for fictitious labour happen, unfortunately, to have been Sundays; but the bills, amounting to 636,000 dols., were paid all the same.

The commission of these frauds was greatly facilitated by the complicated system of book-keeping adopted in the Comptroller's office. Theoretically, the Department of Finance has to deal with two distinct governments—the city of New York and the county of New York. They are identical in their boundaries and governed by the same officers, but there is a separate set of books for each. Then for each government there are five or six titles under which expenditure can be charged; and the figures are, furthermore, so bedevilled with "Revenue Bond" accounts, "Accumulated Debt" accounts, "Improvement Stock" accounts of various kinds, and a dozen other accounts, that only an expert financier can make anything of them. The amount raised by taxation every year is about 30,000,000 dols., which is supposed to cover all the city and county expenditure; but in reality the expenditure is whatever the Ring pleases, and probably no man in New York knows how much it is except the Comptroller! For example, during the first three months of the present year the sum of 1,807,000 dols. was paid out on account of appropriations, entirely exhausting the taxes voted by law, and petty creditors of the city were put off with the statement that the treasury was empty. But during the same period, to meet the claims of the Ring agent, the Comptroller raised 2,841,000 dols. by the sale of bonds on "special account," for a knowledge of which fact the public is indebted entirely to these "surprising" publications. As yet we have not heard the whole. The figures I have quoted are taken entirely from the county accounts, and those of the city (which have not been published) are supposed to be quite as bad.—*Correspondent of "Daily News."*

FATAL POACHING AFFRAY.

An inquest on the body of a game-watcher, Thomas Hill, who was murdered by a number of poachers on the estate of Mr. W. U. Heygate, M.P., at Roccliffe, ten miles from Leicester, during the night of Friday week, was held, on Monday, at Swithland, before the Coroner, Mr. John Gregory. Mr. Heygate and Mr. S. W. Clowes, M.P., who also has an estate in the locality, were present during the inquiry. About

eleven o'clock on Friday night, Aug. 11, the deceased, John Bradshaw, and Hiram Holt, three labourers in the employ of Messrs. John Ellis and Sons, Woodhouse, were out watching, expecting the arrival of poachers. They soon heard the poachers in Mr. Heygate's field, adjoining Mr. Ellis's. On getting to the fence, deceased, who was first, looked over and said, "Here they are!" He got over the fence and approached the poachers, five in number, who ran away and took up a position in line at the end of the nets which were set. They held up their sticks as if prepared for an attack, and began to throw stones. Deceased ran up to them with his stick in his hand, as if to strike, when his feet became entangled in the net, and he fell close to the men, all of whom began to beat him about the head with their sticks and stones. He never stirred again, nor cried out for help. Bradshaw then came up, but he became entangled in the net. He, however, got free, when the poachers left the deceased and turned to him and struck him with stones on the left temple and knee. He was felled by the blows, when Holt came up, and the poachers attacked him so savagely about the head that he had to call out "Murder!" His companion Bradshaw, seeing they were beaten, withdrew, but Holt's cries were heard by John Baum, Thos. Mee, and three other of Lord Stamford's keepers, who were on the boundaries close by. Baum ran with his men to Mr. Heygate's field, and, as soon as they got through the gate, deceased was found lying dead on the ground, with his legs fast in a net. Baum ran along the net side for about fifty yards, when he saw five men run away, with two dogs. He ran after them, and started his own dog after them, which chased them through a spinney into an adjoining field, where it caught one of the men, John Webster, by the coat tail. He dragged the dog for some distance through the field, but eventually had to stop, when Baum overtook him. Webster called out, "Come back, lads, and fight them. I wish I had got my knife." Baum made a prisoner of him and handed him to Thomas Mee, whom Webster at once attacked with his stick. He was, however, soon quieted by his captor. Another of the poachers ran back to assist Webster, when he was caught by Frederick Greasley. On being charged with night poaching and killing a man, Webster replied that they did not mean to leave the ground without their nets. His stick, which was taken from him by Thomas Mee, was found to have blood upon it, while a large stone was found in Kirk's pocket, as well as some net pegs. Eventually Police Constable Poulteney, of Quorndon, who was on his rounds, was sent for, and, on his charging the prisoner with killing the deceased, Webster replied, "We gave it them as well as they gave it me. I struck him once, but no more, and I am sorry for it." Two nets and some net-pegs which the gang had left in the field were subsequently taken possession of by the keepers, who were quite sure the prisoners were two of the five who ran away from the net which was set in Mr. Heygate's field, and where the affray occurred. The prisoners were afterwards removed by Police Constable Poulteney. They both appeared to be injured about the head. Dr. Charles Wood, of Woodhouse, said he was called to see the deceased as he lay in the field. There was one cut wound on the left parietal bone, a large contused wound over the left temple and left eye, which was protruding a little from the socket, and a third wound on the mouth. Several of the teeth were quite loose, but there was no fracture. He lay in a pool of blood, with a large bludgeon by his side. The keepers (Holt and Bradshaw) were injured, the former being very faint. He sewed up a wound 2½ in. long on the front part of his head, also one on his chin, which was cut through. He was now confined to his bed, but witness believed he would recover, with care. Bradshaw had a wound on the left temple and contusion on the inner side of the right knee. Both were bruised on the left arm and shoulder. At the request of the prisoners he also examined them. Kirk had a severe cut on the head, which he stitched up, and Webster also a wound on the head. Neither had any bone broken, but they seemed very much bruised. On Sunday morning witness made a post-mortem examination of the deceased. There were no other wounds than the three he had described, but an extensive extravasation of blood all over the brain, especially on the left side, which was the cause of death. The blows had undoubtedly been dealt with a bludgeon, and he had no doubt that they were struck while deceased lay on the ground, and that death was instantaneous, probably after the first blow. On being told that the conflict only lasted about ten minutes, Mr. Wood said he had no doubt that but for the prompt arrival of Lord Stamford's keepers the three watchers would have been killed in a very short time. The jury, after being briefly addressed by the Coroner, returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against the two prisoners, and the Coroner made out his warrant for their commitment for trial at the Leicestershire Assizes.

SHARPERS BAULKED.

At Croydon Assizes, on the 11th inst., before Mr. Justice Blackburn and a common jury, the causes "Elcho v. Quirk" and "Elcho v. Saulez" were tried. These were two actions to recover upon a bill of exchange for £100 and another for £200 drawn and accepted by the defendants. The defendants pleaded that they had not received any consideration for the bills in question. Mr. Poynter was for the plaintiff; Serjeant Parry, Mr. Lanyon, and Mr. Harnsworth appeared for the defendants; and it was arranged that the two actions should be tried together.

The case was one of a very extraordinary character. The plaintiff was represented to be a bill-discounter, residing at Brompton, and the defendants were officers in the second battalion of the 13th Regiment of Foot, holding the respective rank of Lieutenant and Ensign, and Mr. Saulez having only just come to his majority. The plaintiff's case was that he was introduced to the defendant Saulez by a person named Barnett, or Noel; and that, after some negotiations, two bills, one for £100 and another for £200, were drawn and accepted by the defendants, and he paid into their account £85 for the £100 bill and £170 for the £200 bill to the Messrs. Cox's. When the bills arrived at maturity they were not paid, and the present action was brought to recover the amount.

In cross-examination the plaintiff said that he considered Barnett was the agent of the defendants, and he himself was not intimately connected with him. He admitted that he had been to his house at St. John's-wood, and that he had dined there with ladies and officers; but he said he always went upon business. He had also met Barnett at cafés and restaurants in the Haymarket, and he believed he had been subpoenaed to give evidence in this case, but he did not know whether he was present. He declared that he had paid in the money for the use of the defendants, and he said he was not aware that Barnett had afterwards obtained possession of nearly the whole of it. He denied that he had received any of the money so obtained, or that any of it had come into his possession.

Rowland Gideon Samuel Barnett, the person referred to, was then called upon his subpoena, but he did not answer.

Serjeant Parry, for the defendant, said that the answer he was instructed to make to this action was that a gross fraud had been committed upon the defendants, and that the plaintiff and the man Barnett had conspired together to carry out that fraud. The facts were that in the beginning of the year the defendants, who were at that time with their regiments in the country, received a circular from Barnett, who went by the name of Noel, and who described himself as a monetary agent, and carried on business in Little St. James's-street, offering to advance money. Mr. Saulez was anxious to borrow some, and he came up to town and had an interview with Mr. Barnett, and, after some negotiation, he was introduced to the plaintiff. It was eventually arranged that two bills for £100 and £200, at three months' date, and drawn and accepted by the defendants, should be given, and the arrangement was that £85 should be given for the £100 bill and £170 for the £200, the remainder being deducted for discount. After the bills had been executed the defendants were anxious to obtain the cash, but they were unable to do so, and the plaintiff insisted upon paying in the money to Messrs. Cox and Co., where they kept an account, to their credit. This was eventually done, but it was clear that the only object the parties had in view was to commit a most impudent fraud, and the course resorted to was this:—After the money had been paid in Barnett pretended that it was necessary, in order to establish their identity, that the defendants should draw cheques upon Messrs. Cox against the money that had been paid in; and they were actually weak enough to give him cheques to the amount of £180, which would nearly have exhausted the amount proposed to be given for the bills, Barnett undertaking that the moment the cheques were paid he would hand over the amount to the defendants. Instead of this he kept the whole of it himself, and the defendants found that all they had received for the £300 bills was about £70, which they paid into court, and the present claim for £300 was resisted, on the ground that a most gross fraud had been practised upon them, and that the plaintiff was fully aware of that fraud, and had assisted Barnett to carry it out.

The defendants were then called as witnesses and examined, and they proved the facts as narrated by the learned serjeant. Lieutenant Quirk stated that Barnett assured him that the only reason for his requiring the cheques from him was that he was desirous of ascertaining whether he was known to Messrs. Cox, and to establish his identity. He added that besides the cheques for £180 he was induced to draw another cheque, at the request of Barnett; but he suspected that something was wrong, and he stopped payment of this cheque at the bank.

Justice Blackburn observed that he was very glad to see that there was a limit to his credulity. The learned Judge, in summing up, explained the nature of the action to the jury, and said that if they should be of opinion that the plaintiff and Barnett had conspired together to gain possession of the money of the plaintiff, and pretended to pay it into the bank, no consideration would have been given for the bills, and the defendants were entitled to a verdict. He said there was no doubt that a very gross fraud had been committed, and he could not help expressing his surprise at the credulity that had been exhibited by these young officers. It was true that one of them was only one-and-twenty years of age; but he should certainly have thought that a child of one-and-twenty months would almost have known better than to act so foolishly.

The jury, after a very short deliberation, said they were of opinion that the plaintiff was cognisant of the proceedings of Barnett, and acted with him in the matter, and they returned a verdict for the defendants.

LONDON POLICE COURTS.

CONVICTION OF A BETTING-HOUSE KEEPER.—A young man named William Henry Walter, of 6, Myrtle-terrace, Ravenscourt Park, Hammer-smith, pleaded guilty, at Bow-street, last Saturday, to a charge of keeping a betting-office. Mr. Poland, who conducted the prosecution, said that the defendant had for some time engaged in betting transactions in the name of "Baillie and Walter," and had issued circulars and advertisements in that name, although the police had not yet discovered who or what Mr. Baillie was, if there was such a person in existence. Their advertisements introduced a novelty in racing affairs, for they professed to carry on a system of "discretionary investments" and to employ a special commissioner, "one of the best judges of racehorses in England," to assist them in their enterprises. The public were asked to send investments of £5, £10, £25, and £50; and they were furnished with a list of the gains realised by their subscribers during the past five years. It was known that there had been a very extensive response to their offers, although the private books of the defendant did not show that the investors had achieved anything but the loss of the greater part of their money by their ventures. In most of the advertisements and in the circulars issued by the defendant the address was given, "62, Jamaica-street, Glasgow," with an intimation that after a certain date letters might be forwarded to "Ravenscourt Park." Probably the fact that the Act of Parliament in question did not extend to Scotland might have something to do with the adoption of this Scotch address. The detective

officers at Scotland-yard had tested the matter by sending post-office orders to the address indicated, directing the money to be invested in backing a horse for the Northumberland Plate; and they had received replies, with vouchers, &c., to show that their orders had been attended to. The defendant promised to discontinue the practice complained of. Sir T. Henry said it was hoped that the case of Mr. Wright would have served as a warning against the repetition of the offence. Unfortunately it had not had that effect, and he should order the defendant to pay the same penalty—£100, or be committed for six months. The defendant said he thought he should be able to pay the fine.

STRANGE CHARGE OF THEFT.—At the Marlborough-street Police Court, on Monday, the Marchioness de la Salle was charged with stealing sketches to the value of £400, the property of the Baron de Magrath de Moyecque, a French nobleman now following the profession of an artist in this country. The prisoner, who had represented herself as an officer's widow, was introduced to the prosecutor, alleging that she desired to take lessons in painting. The Baron now declared that she had abused his confidence by abstracting more than fifty of his sketches. Many of these were found in her possession, but a few were admitted to have been lent by the prosecutor. The Marchioness was again brought up on Wednesday, and, after further investigation, was discharged, the magistrate remarking—"After the evidence we have heard, I am of opinion that no jury would find the prisoner guilty of stealing the drawings with the intention of disposing of them for her own use. It is a case of suspicion, and it was quite right it should be inquired into; but that a jury would convict I do not believe."

SERIOUS ROBBERY.—A man about forty-five years of age, just released from Liverpool Borough Gaol, giving his name William Simpson, was charged at Westminster, on Monday, with being concerned with others not in custody in robbing Mr. John Orton, of the Rookery Farm, Towcester, Northamptonshire, of £890. The facts are as follow:—On July 13, 1870, prosecutor came to London, where he was met by a man who forced his acquaintance upon him and accompanied him to several places. As usual in cases of this description, two or three other men soon appeared upon the scene, including the prisoner. Prosecutor had occasion to go to Coventry, where he drew from the bank notes to the value of £890, and deposited them in one of two pocket-books which he carried. There is no doubt that prosecutor was dogged there, and he saw one of the gang on his return leaving the telegraph office at Rugby. This man came by the same train to London, and thence to Chelsea, where they went into an up-stairs room at a tavern to take some refreshment. There the same three other men as before, again including the prisoner, made their appearance. The old trick of one of them being willing to advance another a large sum of money, of stamps being required for loan, and of prisoner and prosecutor being the two selected to get the stamps, and of their depositing something to guarantee their safe return, was resorted to. Prisoner threw down what appeared to be a handful of sovereigns upon the table, and prosecutor left what he believed to be his ordinary pocket-book, but which, from their close resemblance, was the one containing the bank-notes. He went out with the prisoner, who, after they had proceeded a few yards, remembered that he had left something behind him, and desired prosecutor to await his return. No more was seen of him, and on prosecutor's return to the tavern the whole party had gone, and with them the pocket-book and notes. Nothing was heard of any of the parties until three weeks ago, when prosecutor picked prisoner out from a number of others in Liverpool Borough Gaol, where he was undergoing three months' imprisonment for an act of vagrancy. Prisoner positively denied his identity. He was remanded for a week.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—The August sessions of the Central Criminal Court were opened on Monday. Agnes Norman, who had been convicted of having attempted to strangle a little boy ten years of age, was sentenced to be kept in penal servitude for ten years. A similar sentence was passed upon each of two men named Cooke and Clayton, who had been found guilty of an extensive silk robbery from a warehouse in Mitre-court, Cheapside. William Goddard, a butler, pleaded guilty to charges of robbery and forgery, and was ordered to be kept in penal servitude six years.

WANTON CASE OF CRUELTY.—James Gray, of 4, Maiden-lane, King's-cross, was charged before Mr. Cooke, at the Clerkenwell Police Court, on Thursday, with cruelly torturing a mule. The animal fell from sheer exhaustion, and was dragged along, the flesh being torn from the knees. To make it rise and walk, the defendant again beat the poor animal. Mr. Cooke said this was a very bad case, and sentenced the defendant to hard labour in the House of Correction for six weeks.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—C. J. BRIDGMAN, Harrogate, City, wine merchant—J. LAW, Manchester, money scrivener.

BANKRUPTS.—J. ARMINGER, Mill-street, Hanover-square, dyer—H. A. HOLDEN, Bedford-square, builder—J. M. MALLS, Shepherd's-bush, hotel-keeper—J. BILLY, Weinstreet, saddler—H. BASSETT, Godstone, butcher—J. BIRD, Bromborough, grocer—F. B. EATON, Nuneaton—S. FORBES, Salcombe, Devonshire, draper—H. GREENFIELD, Horsham, builder—J. LEIGH, Hyde, cork sock manufacturer—J. and S. RINDER, Leeds, contractors—J. SLATER, South Normanton, grocer—C. WELCH, Shepton Mallet, licensed victualler—J. WHITE, Landport, leather-seller.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. M'ARTHUR, Belth and Largs, baker—W. WEIR, Edinburgh, grocer—J. PATTERSON, Glasgow, contractor—J. WILSON, Glasgow, spirit merchant—J. CLARK, Greenock, carter—J. ANDERSON (deceased), Arbroath, solicitor.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—E. B. WALLEY, Andover, Cheshire, commission agent—E. D. COLE, Stoke Newington, collector—J. WRIGHT, Stone, Staffordshire.

BANKRUPTS.—A. MILLS, Pentonville, telescope-maker—T. F. RICHARD, Fleet-street, solicitor—L. CREGGTON and J. ARMSTRONG, St. Helen's, grocers—J. FORD, Bradworthy, Devonshire, ironmonger—E. HARDON, Manchester, patent cake manufacturer—J. NEWBOLD, York, lithographic printer—D. BURGESS, Tinsley, grocer—A. SCOTT, Earlsheaton, near Dunsbury, woollen manufacturer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. BUCHANAN, Glasgow, tea merchant—J. MACDONALD, Overgate, Dundee, draper—L. RICHARDSON and CO., Glasgow, wine merchants—W. URE, Hawhill, Dundee, brewer.

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with any kind of knife-board or knife-cleaning machine.
Packages, 3d. each; Tins, 6d., 1s., 2s., 3s., 4s., each. Wholesale
—Oakley and Sons, Wellington Emery and Black-Lead Mills,
Blackfriars, London.

GLENFIELD STARCH.
Exclusively used in the Royal Laundry;
and her Majesty's Laundress says that
"It is the finest Starch she ever used."
Awarded Prize Medal for its superiority.
Beware of spurious imitations.

WHITEHEAD'S
SOLID ESSENCE OF BEEF,
Best and most nutritious.
Of all Grocers and Chemists.
Wholesale at 8 and 9, Lime-street-square.

MELBOURNE MEAT-PRESERVING
COMPANY (LIMITED).
COOKED BEEF and MUTTON in Tins,
with full instructions for use.
Prime Quality and free from Bone.
Sold Retail by Grocers and Provision-Dealers throughout the
kingdom.
Wholesale by
JOHN MCCALL and CO., 137, Moonditch, London.

FOR TRAVELLING AND THE SEASIDE.
PATENT WATERPROOF TWEEDS,
made of the very best Wool, 14s. 6d. to 21s. the Dress;
in rich Heather Mixtures, Iron Greys, Browns, Greens,
Gold and Black, &c.
AN OPPORTUNITY OF BUYING BEST PRINTED
FRENCH MUSLINS, Very Cheap.
A special Sale of over 300 pieces.
In every variety of design and colour,
suitable for Dinner, Evening, or Summer wear.
Patterns free.

IN EVERY VARIETY OF FABRIC.
CHEAP and USEFUL DRESSES.
Now ready, a complete collection of
New Fabrics, 2s. to 25s. the Dress.
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON, 103 to 105, Oxford-street.

AT PETER ROBINSON'S.
MOURNING WITH ECONOMY.
Families are waited upon, free of any extra charge,
by experienced Female Assistants (or Dressmakers), in any
part of the country (no matter how distant from London), with
an excellent choice of articles, including made-up Skirts, Cos-
tumes, Mantles, Bonnettes, and every fashionable and necessary
requisite.
Mourning for Servants at reasonable stated charges.
Letter Orders or Telegrams immediately attended to.

DRESSMAKING.
Making Plain Dress, 3s. 6d.
Making Trimmed Dress, from 10s. 6d. to 12s. 6d.,
without expensive Sundries.
The highest talent is employed in this department, and large
orders are executed at the shortest notice.
PETER ROBINSON'S
GENERAL MOURNING REHOUSE,
255, 256, and 257, Regent-street,
the Largest Mourning Warehouse in London.

CHEAP FANCY DRESSES.
Reduced Prices for August.
Dresses for the Seaside, Travelling, or Ordinary Wear may now
be had at mere nominal prices.
We shall offer 2000 yards at 24d.,
2000 yards at 24d.,
20,000 yards at 24d.,
20,000 yards at 24d.,
and 25,000 yards at 24d. a yard;
together with several hundred odd lengths and single Dresses
marked down in price, in order perfectly to clear out the
Stock at the Close of the Season.
Patterns free every where.
HENRY GLAVE, 534 to 537, New Oxford-street, W.C.

**CHEAP PARCELS OF UNDER-
CLOTHING.**
During the present month a general Clearance Sale will be
made. We show very cheap—
Ladies' Drawers, Children's Drawers,
Ladies' Chemises, Children's Chemises,
Ladies' Petticoats, Children's Petticoats,
Ladies' Night Dresses, Children's Night Dresses,
Ladies' Toilet Jackets, Infants' Cloaks,
French Camisoles, Boys' Suits,
Wedding Outfits, Sets of Baby Linen,
&c. &c. &c.
A printed List of Reduced Prices post free.
GLAVE'S OUTFITTING and UNDERCLOTHING WARE-
HOUSE, 534, New Oxford-street, W.C.

IMPORTANT and EXTENSIVE
SALE OF GENERAL DRAPERY, DRESSES, &c.,
at HENRY GLAVE'S,
534 to 537, New Oxford-street, W.C.
The entire Stock of
Mr. J. Whitborne, of Brentford,
bought by Public Tender,
373, under cost price.
Sale will continue for a short time, until the whole
Stock is disposed of.
Doors open at Ten o'clock.
HENRY GLAVE,
534 to 537, New Oxford-street, W.C.

BOYS' CLOTHING.—Suits, 16s. to 45s.
Noted for
HARD WEAR,
HIGH-CLASS
STYLE, and QUALITY.
SAMUEL BROTHERS, 50, Ludgate-hill.

GREAT SALE OF SUMMER STOCK.
KNIGHT and CO., Silkmercers, British and
Foreign Dress Warehousemen, 217, Regent-street, beg to
announce that their ANNUAL SALE of SILK'S STOCK
has commenced; and, having re-marked their entire stock of
Black and Coloured silks, Satins, Fancy Dresses, Muslins,
Prints, &c., at a great reduction for their former prices,
Ladies will find an opportunity of purchasing at a great
advantage.
Patterns post-free.

FLOUNCED, PLAITED, and QUILTED
SILK and SATIN SKIRTS.—KNIGHT and CO., 217,
Regent-street, in accordance with their annual custom, have
made great Reductions in the prices of their entire Stock of the
above, in order to effect an early clearance.

DR. RIDGE'S FOOD.
FOR INFANTS and INVALIDS.
In Tins and Packets.
Sold Every where.

HEALTHY DIGESTION.
Nothing is so important to the human frame as healthy
digestive organs, and when they are impaired, the popular and
professional remedy is
MORSON'S PEPSINE.
Sold in bottles and boxes, from 2s. 6d., by all Chemists and the
Bottle and Box, 12s. 6d. See name on label.
THOMAS MORSON and SON,
124, Southampton-row, W.C., London.

COLLIER CHOCOLATE POWDER
and SON'S
strengthens the invalid and invigorates the healthy.
Sold by all Grocers, 1s. per lb. "Try it."

GLENFIELD STARCH.
See that you get it,
as inferior kinds are often substituted
for the sake of extra profit.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.
For Bad Legs, Sores, and Ulcers.
This world-renowned Ointment is most potent
in curing all cases of
Ulceration, Abscesses, and "Bad Legs,"
after every other means have failed, and the sufferings
experienced from them are utterly unendurable.

SKIN DISEASES.—AKHURST'S
GOLDEN LOTION positively cures Scabby, Itch, King-
worm, Redness, Pimples, and all obstinate eruptions in a few
hours. 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. per bottle.—Of all Chemists, and
W. E. Akhurst and Co., 8, Lamb's Conduit-street, London, W.C.

SMALLPOX, FEVERS, and SKIN
DISEASES,
The predisposition to be prevented by LAMPOUGH'S
PYRETIC SALINE. Agreeable, vitalising, and invigorating,
its effects are remarkable in their cure and prevention. Take it
as directed. Sold by Chemists and the maker,
H. Lamplough, 113, Holborn-hill.

CHLORODYNE FOR
DIARRHOEA and ENGLISH CHOLERA.

THE GREAT REMEDY OF THE DAY IS
Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE. A few
doses will cure all incipient cases. Caution.—The extraordinary
medical reports on the efficacy of Chlorodyne renders it of vital
importance that the public should obtain the genuine, which is
now sold under the protection of Government authorising a
stamp bearing the words "Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne,"
without which none is genuine. See decision of Vice-Chancellor
Sir W. Page Wood, the "Times," July 16, 1869. Sold in bottles,
1s. 1d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d., by all Chemists. Sole Manufacturer,
J. T. DAVENPORT, 33, Great Russell-street, London, W.C. See
also Report of Earl Russell in the "Lancet," Dec. 31, 1864.

EPILEPSY or FITS.—A Sure Cure
for this distressing complaint is now made known in a
Treatise (of 48 octavo pages) on Foreign and Native Herbal
Preparations, published by Professor O. PHELPS BROWN.
The prescription was discovered by him in such a providential
manner that he cannot conscientiously refuse to make it known,
as it has cured every body who has used it for Fits, never having
failed in a single case. The ingredients may be obtained from
any Chemist. Sent free to any address on application to Prof. O.
Phelps Brown, 2, King-street, Covent-garden, London.

BAKER and CRISP'S
PERIODICAL REDUCTIONS.
SILKS! SILKS! SILKS!
Plain Silks 25s. 6d. to 75s. 0d.
Fancy Silks 25s. 6d. to 63s. 0d.
Striped Silks 25s. 6d. to 63s. 0d.
Satin Silks 15s. 6d. to 29s. 6d.
Tussore Silks 18s. 6d. to 45s. 0d.
Coloured Satins 35s. 6d. to 55s. 0d.
Black Satins 35s. 6d. to 55s. 0d.
Black Silks 15s. 6d. to 100s. 0d.
Odd Silks 15s. 6d. to 54s. 0d.
Patterns free.—198, Regent-street, London.

VELVETEENS EXTRAORDINARY.
First Delivery of 1000 Boxes of our celebrated
Moleskin Silk Velveteens, in Black and all
colours, from 15s. 6d. to 30s. Full Dress.
Patterns free.—BAKER and CRISP.

BAKER and CRISP'S
PERIODICAL REDUCTIONS.
DRESSES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION REDUCED.
Sent free 1012. Mullerie (Cretones), Fancy Materials,
Girdle, Camlets, Poiré de Chèvre, Fignés,
Mullins, &c. Now selling, from 4jd. per yard.
All half price.
BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent-street. Patterns free.

NOTICE.—Odds-and-Ends of REMNANTS,
in bundles, lengths 4 to 8 yards, in 50-yard bundles,
for and for. Each material various and useful.
Sent for P.O. O. to BAKER and CRISP'S, Regent-street.

NOTICE.—SPECIALTIES.
BAKER and CRISP'S EARLY AUTUMN FABRICS
are now ready. Patterns free.
198, Regent-street.

DOLLY VARDENS.
BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

DOLLY VARDENS, for Seaside Wear,
ready for wear. Every description. 18s. 6d., 21s., 23s. 6d.,
25s. 6d.
BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent-street, London.

FOR THE HOT WEATHER.—22,000 Yards
of GAZ DE CHAMBRAY, with Coloured Satin Stripes,
4jd. yard, worth 1s. 3d.
BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

BRITISH COLLEGE OF HEALTH, Easton-
London.—MORISON'S VEGETABLE UNI-
VERSAL MEDICINE, in Boxes at 7d., 12d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d.,
and 11s. each. Sold by the Hygienic Agents and Medicine
Vendors generally.

KAYE'S WORDSWELL'S PILLS.—The
best, safest, and most certain Family Medicine that has
yet been discovered. Being composed of nothing but the purest
vegetable ingredients, they are suitable for either sex. They
are equally valuable for curing and preventing disease.
Sold by all Chemists and other Dealers in Patent Medicines,
1s. 1d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. per Box.

ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES,
West-hill, Putney-heath, S.W.—This Charity is in
URGENT NEED of increased SUPPORT, in carrying on its
extensive operations.
There are 133 inmates and 278 pensioners—total, 411.
In all these cases the benefit is for life.
Upwards of 30 approved candidates are waiting election.
To meet the actual claims, and to extend the benefits of the
institution, the board depends from year to year upon volun-
tary contributions, the reserve fund not supplying more than
one twentieth of the annual revenue.
Persons subscribing at least half a guinea annually, or five
guineas at one time, are Governors, and are entitled to votes in
proportion to the amount.
Orders payable to the Secretary, 1, Poultry, by whom sub-
scriptions will be thankfully received and all information
promptly supplied.
No. 1, Poultry, E.C. FREDERIC ANDREW, Secretary.

BRITISH HOME FOR INCURABLES,
Clapham-rise (Instituted 1861).
Patroness—H.R.H. the Princess of WALES.
Treasurers—George Moore Esq.; Mr. Alderman Gibbons.
Bankers—Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, and Co., 54, Lombard-
street, E.C.; and Messrs. Drummond, Charing-cross, S.W.
This Institution extends its operations to all parts of the
United Kingdom. It provides for those afflicted with incurable
disease, a home for life, with every comfort and medical
attendance.
Patients are admitted and annuities of £20 are obtained by
elections. No person under 20 years of age nor of the pauper
class is eligible.
Full particulars and the necessary forms may be procured
from the Secretary.
DONATIONS and ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are earnestly
solicited.
Offices, 73, Cheapside, E.C. EDWARD WEAVER, Sec.

LONDON HOSPITAL, Whitechapel-road,
E.—CONTRIBUTIONS in aid of the funds of this Hos-
pital are earnestly solicited.
The demand for admission into the wards continues to in-
crease, and none but urgent cases are now received. On Friday,
the 18th inst., 543 patients were in the Hospital, a higher number
than has hitherto been attained.
As a consequence of the great pressure of in-patients com-
bined with a very deficient income, the Governors have already
been compelled to borrow from their bankers the sum of £7000,
to enable them to meet the expenses of the Hospital up to
June 30 last.

By order of the House Committee,
Wm. J. Nixon, House Governor and Secretary.
Bankers—Messrs. Roberts, Lubbeck, and Co.; and Messrs.
Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co.
August 8, 1871.

THE RUPTURE SOCIETY.—Patron, his
Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.
This Society was established in the year 1804 for the purpose
of supplying trusses to the necessitous classes.
The number of patients assisted by the Society to Midsummer
last was 57,037. Within the last three years more than 450
letters have been sent to the clergy of the poorer districts in
London for distribution among the parishioners.
DONATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS are thankfully received
by the bankers, Messrs. Hoare, Fleet-street, E.C.; the Collector,
Mr. Geo. Henry Leah, Junr., 73, Park-street, Grosvenor-square,
W.; or by the Secretary, at No. 27, Great James-street,
Bedford-row, W.C.
By order, Wm. MOSLEY TAYLER, Secretary.

CANCER HOSPITAL, Brompton, and 167,
Piccadilly, W.—In consequence of a considerable increase
in the number of Indoor Patients in this Hospital, which now
exceeds sixty, great additional expenses have been incurred.
The board earnestly solicit further SUPPORT to enable them
to continue to afford relief to that portion of the sick poor
suffering from this terrible malady.
Treasurer—Geo. F. Herkell Esq., St. James's Palace, S.W.
Bankers—Messrs. Coutts and Co., Strand, W.C.
Office and Out-patients' Establishment, 167, Piccadilly, W.
By order, H. J. JURY, Secretary.

ROYAL ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL for
Club Foot, Spinal and other Deformities, 315, Oxford-
street, W.; incorporated by Royal Charter.—To provide more
adequately for the large increase of patients, and in the hope of
obtaining additional support, the committee opened a new
ward, increasing the accommodation for in-patients to fifty
beds. Number of patients benefited 46,000; no under treat-
ment, 2000. £10 10s. constitutes a Life Governor; £5 5s.
a Governor for ten years; £1 1s. annually an Annual Governor,
each entitled to recommend patients. CONTRIBUTIONS
thankfully received by Messrs. Martin and Co., 68, Lombard-
street; and by Mr. BENJAMIN MARKELL, Secretary, at the
Hospital.

CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR
DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Victoria Park. The Com-
mittee earnestly APPEAL for FUNDS in support of the exten-
sive operations of this Institution. The Hospital is entirely
dependent on voluntary support. 200,000 Patients have been
relieved by the Charity since its commencement in 1848.
Treasurer—Henry Tucker Esq., 30, Gresham-street.
Bankers—Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, and Co., 54, Lombard-street.
HENRY SEWELL, Hon. Sec.
WILLIAM JONES, Sec.
Office, 24, Finsbury-circus, E.C.

FIELD-LANE RAGGED SCHOOLS,
REFUGES, &c.
President—Earl of SHAFTESBURY.
Treasurer—George Moore Esq.

Open all the year.—SPECIAL APPEAL.—A very earnest
Appeal for Funds has become necessary to carry on the work of
instruction and succour afforded by this Institution.
The year's statistics show 1300 children under instruction;
257 placed out; a large attendance in the adult classes: 4108 men
and women of character passed through the Refuges; 1345
placed out; 47,000 persons attended the Ragged Church services;
225 servants clothed and sent to domestic service. Altogether,
60,000 persons benefited during the year, at a cost of £3000, con-
tributed by voluntary contributions.
Donations will be thankfully received by the bankers, Messrs.
Barclay, Bevan, and Co., Lombard-street; Ransom and Co.,
Fleet-street; or by Mr. Samuel Tawell, Hon. Sec., 17, Berners-street, W.

W. F. THOMAS and CO.'S
DOMESTIC SEWING-MACHINES
by Hand, £3 15s. and £5 5s.;
All Lock-stitch, Work alike on both sides,
SEWING-MACHINES FOR ALL MANUFACTURING
PURPOSES.
Catalogues and Samples post-free.
Original Patentes (1849).
1 and 2, CHEAPSIDE,
and REGENT-CIRCUS, OXFORD-STREET.
Easy Terms when required, without increase of price.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL
EXHIBITION of 1871 will CLOSE on SEPT. 30.—The
general Public are admitted Every Week Day, except Wednes-
day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., on payment of One Shilling. On
Wednesdays the price is Half a Crown.

ST. JAMES'S GREAT HALL.—Last
Days of the Wonderful TWO-HEADED NIGHTINGALE
Recapitulation from Two Tilt Five and from Half-past Seven
Ten p.m. Admission, 1s.; Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL for
CHILDREN, Ratcliffe-cross, Instituted 1863.

Her Grace the Dowager-Duchess of Beaufort.
Her Ladyship the Dowager-Marchioness of Lansdowne.
Mrs. Edward Marjoribanks.
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of London.
The Right Honourable Lord Blythney.
Chairman of the Board of Management—T. Scrutton, Esq.
Treasurer—E. S. Norris, Esq.
Bankers—The Alliance Bank, Bartholomew-lane; Messrs.
Coutts and Co., Strand; Messrs. Dimsdale, Fowler, Barnard,
and Co., Cornhill.
This Institution is supported entirely by voluntary contri-
butions, possessing no endowment of any kind whatever. It
extends its aid to the women and suffering children of the poor
in the east end of London; none but children are admitted as
in-patients, the women being treated as out-patients. No fee
is charged, advice and medicine being supplied absolutely free.
Since the opening of the Hospital in 1868, 14,243 have been
treated. 15,106 of these being women out-patients and 11,7
children in-patients. The increasing demands upon the Charity
averaging from 25 to 30 new applicants daily necessitate the
building of a Hospital which shall bear some proportion to the
requirements of those for whom the Committee are labouring
to provide. During the fortnight ending the 31st inst., 107
patients have been prescribed for. Of these 222 are new out-
patients, 34 in-patients, and 27 casual cases of accidents and
otherwise.
Full particulars and the necessary forms for admission by
subscribers and donors may be obtained from the Secretary at
the Hospital.
DONATIONS and ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS in aid are
earnestly solicited.
Cheques and money-orders may be made payable to
ARLTON WALKER, Secretary.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's-inn-
road.—Open to the sick poor without letters of recom-
mendation. FUNDS urgently needed.
JAMES S. BLYTH, Sec.

THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED
and SIXTY ORPHANS have been maintained and edu-
cated by the LONDON ORPHAN ASYLUM since its formation,
in the year 1813.
Designed originally for 300 orphans, for years past the Asylum
has sheltered 450 children, until medical authority protested
against the reception of so large a number. The alternative of
reduced numbers or of extension was presented.
With nearly two hundred candidates seeking admission at
each half-yearly election, the Managers resolved to build a Home
in the country, which should ultimately shelter 600 orphans,
and admit of the reception of 100 children annually.
The new Asylum in course of construction at Watford provides
for the immediate shelter of 450 orphans, but the buildings are
erected on the scale of ultimate accommodation for 600 orphans.
A further outlay, as funds admit, of about £12,000, will give
ample and complete accommodation for the entire number.
The building is rapidly advancing towards completion.
It is remarkable for its good working qualities and the absence
of all unsuitable ornament.
The large outlay is accounted for by the provision of sufficient
cottage spaces for so large a number of inmates.
The effort will exhaust the reserve fund and leave the Charity
dependent on voluntary aid.

On this account the Managers very earnestly plead for AID to
the Building Fund. They appeal with confidence because the
labours of the Charity are as widely known as they are appre-
ciated, extending as they do to orphans of every class and
locality.
The Managers respectfully submit that it is hardly possible to
present a stronger claim to public sympathy and support than
lies in their endeavour to afford, in the best possible way, a
larger amount of relief to the widow and the fatherless.
Further donations to the Building Fund will be gratefully
received.
Annual subscription for one vote, 10s. 6d.; for two votes, £1 1s.
Life gift for one vote, £5 5s.; for two votes, £10 10s.
Donations to the Building Fund give the usual voting pri-
vileges.
JAMES ROGERS, Secretary.
Office, 1, St. Helen's-place, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

HOME CHARITIES.—Owing to the noble
and benevolent exertions made by the British public
to aid the sick and wounded in the war lately raging on the
Continent, to relieve the French peasants, and the relatives
and friends of those lost in H.M. Captains, the funds of the
following Home Charities have suffered very materially, viz.—
The Boys' Refuge, at 8, Great Queen-street, Holborn.
Bisley Farm School, Surrey.
Chichester Training Ship.
Girls' Refuge, 15, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.
Home for Little Girls and Girls' Refuge, Ealing.
In these Institutions between 500 and 600 boys and girls are
educated, fed, clothed, and trained to earn their own living.
Besides the above work, upwards of 500 ragged school children
are supplied with dinner on a weekly basis.
An URGENT APPEAL is therefore made for help to purchase
food and clothing for these poor children. Contributions will
be thankfully received by the London and Westminster Bank,
214, High Holborn, and 41, Lothbury, City; and by
WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Secretary.
Boys' Refuge, 8, Great Queen-street, Holborn, W.C.

ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.—Office,
31, Finsbury-square, E.C. Instituted 1757, for Providing
gratuitous Medical Attendance for Poor Married Women at
their Own Homes in their Lying-in.
President—His Grace the Duke of Argyll, K.T.
To extend the benefits of this Charity, additional FUNDS are
greatly needed.
Through the munificence of donors of former days and bene-
volent testators, a moderate annual income has been reserved,
the Committee are unwilling to trench upon this fund, though
sorely pressed for means to meet the claims of the daily
increasing number of applicants.
Annual average of patients delivered, 3500; annual number
of unassisted applicants, nearly as many.
The women are attended at their own homes; they like it
better, and much expense is thus avoided.
An annual increase of income of £10 would pay the cost of 30
additional patients.
£1000 invested in Consols would meet the expense of attending
100 poor women annually in perpetuity.
JOHN SEABROOK, Secretary.

ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC
HOSPITAL, Blomfield-street, Moorfields, E.C.
The great enlargement of the Hospital necessitates an urgent
APPEAL for AID to meet current expenses. Annual sub-
scriptions are especially solicited.
An average of 35,000 out-patients and 1000 in-patients received
annually.
T. MOORE, Secretary.

THE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Soho-
square (established 1842), for the Reception of Patients
from all parts of the United Kingdom and the Colonies.
CONTRIBUTIONS are earnestly solic